









# 'Reluctant' surgeons are blamed for contributing to high waiting lists

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Empty beds, wasted operating theatres and reluctant surgeons were key causes of National Health Service waiting lists which included almost 675,000 patients in England alone, according to a study published today.

The study suggested that inefficiency and the failure of a significant minority of surgeons to fulfil their NHS contracts were contributing to high waiting lists and delays.

Mr John Yates, of the health services management centre at Birmingham University, which is part-funded by the Department of Health, said every organization needed spare capacity, not least the NHS which had to keep beds free for emergencies.

But he added: "It seems an incredible paradox that we should have 50,000 acute beds, one quarter of the total, empty each day while over half a million people are waiting for treatment."

His study showed wide variations between health authorities in how efficiently beds were used. For example, 43 per cent of ear, nose and throat beds were empty each day on average. But while 10 of the 172 district authorities had less than 10 per cent of these beds empty daily, 53 districts have more than half the beds unused on average.

Data on operating theatres were poor, but there was now "ample evidence" that many hospitals were not making full use of the operating theatre sessions available. There were also "huge variations" in the workload of different surgeons, some of whom were clearly not pulling their weight or fulfilling their contracts, he said.

In orthopaedics, allowing that some operations were more difficult and time-consuming than others, "there are surgeons who are carrying out less than 150 operations a year, fewer than three a week, while others do over 750". Mr Yates said in an article in the National Association of Health Authorities' newsletter.

"It is quite clear that there are surgeons who are taking a substantial proportion of their NHS time not working in the NHS."

"One should not assume low workload is merely because surgeons are unwilling to operate. I have found examples of surgeons who have only been given one operating session a week despite being on a full-time, or maximum part-time, contract."

"But whilst there are many surgeons who work extremely long hours, there is undoubtedly a proportion who could undertake more operating."

In the ear, nose and throat field, he said 22 of the districts with services had over one-fifth of the waiting list in England.

"Many of the districts are well supplied for theatres, and some of them have surgeons who do very little operating compared to their colleagues elsewhere in England."

Surgeons in the specialty may object, however, that as many of their patients are treated as day cases they would not show up in a midnight count of empty beds.

Health authority members had an obligation to check their district's performance rigorously in face of "considerable evidence about the under-use of beds, theatres and surgeons". Mr Yates said in the newsletter.

Until existing resources were used efficiently the NHS would find it hard to make the case for more resources.

## Motor insurers set to follow GRE rise

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Further big increases in motor insurance rates look inevitable after Guardian Royal Exchange (GRE), one of Britain's largest motor insurers, yesterday announced rises ranging from 7 per cent to 13 per cent from next month.

The largest increases fall on country motorists with small cars.

The move comes after a 10 per cent increase for the group's one million motor insurance policyholders last July, and 6 per cent last December.

Last September, General Accident, the largest in the field, increased its rates by up to 8.5 per cent, and Sun Alliance announced rises of 15 per cent.

GRE said that the rate increases were essential, after he sudden rise in the number of claims, which began towards the end of last year. By the spring claims had rocketed by 10 per cent, compared with the previous year, and the number was still rising.

Mr Michael Auld, a spokesman for the group, said: "The rapid increases in our rates show how serious the situation has become for insurers."

The average cost of claims had also jumped. It was now 600, 9 per cent more than last year, Mr Auld said. The cost of third party injury claims had risen by one-third.

Since the upward trend in the number and cost of claims was showing no sign of ending the cost of motor insurance would continue to rise, he said.

Last September, GRE announced that it was losing more

## Pay dispute threatens to close opera

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Royal Opera House faces the most serious industrial dispute in its history with the indefinite closure of both its opera and ballet in Covent Garden from Monday over a pay claim by its 120-strong orchestra.

The shutdown, ordered in anticipation of an all-out strike by orchestra members who have been refusing to rehearse for the past week, will cost the financially stricken organization £130,000 a week. The musicians are claiming a 10 per cent pay rise and, according to the management, have been offered one equivalent to 8.5 per cent.

Last year the organization received a rise in its state grant of only 1.9 per cent, the latest round of grant settlements, due to be announced in the next few weeks, is unlikely to give it much more.

Mr Paul Findlay, the company's assistant director, said yesterday: "This is a question of the whole principle of wage settlements and negotiations. The arts are very short of money and if we get a settlement of around 2 per cent next year, as the rumours suggest, we will have a shortfall of £2 million."

Mr John Morton, general secretary of the Musicians' Union, said that the difference between the union and the Covent Garden management could be met by an increase of around £20,000.

"I am astonished that they do not go that little bit further."

## Football as therapy



Police Constable Lester Shapter (left), who is to referee today's First Division football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Luton, has consulted three specialists and two doctors about a spinal disability that has kept him off sick (on full pay) since February from his job as a motor policeman at Newton Abbot, Devon.

Although colleagues were puzzled at his continued appearances as a referee when he could not drive a patrol car, doctors assured senior officers that his exertions were therapeutic.

## Patient jailed for life

A psychiatric patient was yesterday jailed for life for a murder he committed while on unrestricted parole from a secure hospital unit.

Sam Packer, aged 42, was allowed to wander freely from the Scott clinic in Rainhill Hospital, St Helens, Merseyside. One night he killed a young woman voluntary patient, slashing her throat.

The next day he alerted hospital staff, claiming he had stumbled across the naked body of Janice McKinley, aged 22, while he was on his way to a local public house.

Packer, who has been a mental hospital patient since he was aged seven, pleaded not guilty but did not give evidence at Liverpool Crown Court.

## Stroke risks from drink 'underestimated'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The risks of young men suffering a stroke after a drinking binge were underestimated, according to the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal*, although cases of stroke among those under 40 were uncommon.

In an occasional column, *Lesson of the Week*, the journal detailed instances when two men had over indulged in alcohol before they called their doctors.

The first case involved a policeman, aged 30, who developed a severe paralysis of the right-hand side of his face and body. He had previously been well, but the evening before he had consumed a large amount of beer.

He awoke with a hangover, but managed to go to work, collapsing in the afternoon with sudden right-sided weakness. His normal weekly consumption of alcohol was two to three pints, and he did not smoke.

Images obtained after injecting a dye into the main artery supplying blood to the brain revealed that one of the vessels had signs of damage, usually caused after blocking by a blood clot.

There was no predisposing cause for that condition, apart from the abuse of alcohol.

In the second case reported

by Dr Martin Wilkins and Dr Martin Kendall, of Birmingham University medical school, the same mystery occurred.

A man aged 36 had a similar paralysis of the left-hand side of his face and body after drinking 200 grammes of alcohol and spirits, which is the equivalent of 10 pints of beer, against his usual daily intake of four pints.

Both men steadily recovered. The cases are held to support other investigations in Birmingham and Finland in which an association between heavy drinking and strokes was suspected. But doctors do not know how the blockage occurs.



Miss Hue Thu Ta, a Vietnamese refugee, at Newcastle Polytechnic yesterday before receiving an honours degree. Her brother, Tuan Chi Ta, received his last year.

## Record damages for student

By a Staff Reporter

A woman student crippled in a car crash and now confined to a wheelchair was awarded record damages by a High Court judge yesterday.

Miss Elizabeth Francis, aged 21, will receive £413,945, the largest sum awarded to a single person. She was severely injured in September 1982 when a car in which she was a passenger left the road near Harleston, Staffordshire, and hit a tree, leaving her paralysed from the waist down and with both arms severely affected by spinal damage.

In spite of "catastrophic injuries" which affected her future as a career woman, wife and mother, Miss Francis impressed everyone as a "brave and courageous young lady", the court was told.

Awarding damages Mr Justice Russell, sitting at the High Court in Manchester, said: "There have been devastating consequences following her dreadful injuries and no sum of money can ever compensate her."

The judge awarded £140,000 for future nursing services, £77,500 for her pain and suffering and more than £8,000 for regular physiotherapy treatment.

He also took into account her future loss of earnings and included a payment for her mother, Mrs Margaret Francis, for the care she had lavished on her daughter in the 18 months between her leaving hospital in March 1983 and beginning her course at Oxford Polytechnic, where she is studying law and computing, last September.

The award to Miss Francis, of Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire, was made against the insurers of the driver of the car, Mr Roger Bostock, of Clifton Campville, Staffordshire, who admitted liability. She was in court to hear the judgement.

## Air disaster victims settle for at least £20m compensation

From Peter Davenport, Manchester

Boeing and Pratt and Whitney, the engine manufacturers, Mr Roger Pannone, chairman of the solicitors' committee and a specialist in disaster litigation, said: "We are very well satisfied. It has saved the victims and relatives a considerable amount of time in facing a legal battle in America."

He added that the agreement contained arrangements for arbitration if there were subsequent disagreements between the two sides when it came to assessing the size of individual payments.

Last night Mr William Beckett, owner of a Sheffield plastics company, whose daughter, Sarah, aged 18, died on her way to a job in Corfu as a nanny, said: "Obviously money cannot bring my daughter back."

"But a monetary settlement is very important in that I hope the size of the total settlement will bring home to British Airways, Boeing and Pratt and Whitney that they will have to improve their procedures and safety in general to stop this happening again."

"There must be more exits on planes, fewer seats, better fireproof materials and more maintenance."

After the disaster there was criticism about materials used on the interior of modern jets which allowed the rapid spread of the fire and a build-up of dense, choking smoke that prevented those who died from escaping.

The settlement was reached between a committee representing more than 50 firms of solicitors, with a total of 124 claimants, and a team of lawyers for British Airways.

The disaster happened on August 22 as a British Airways Boeing 737 was on its take-off run at Manchester airport, bound for Corfu with 131 passengers and six crew. It burst into flames when an engine exploded.

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## Trust in dispute over dig

By John Young

A dispute between the National Trust and Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, is expected to come to a head at the trust's annual meeting in London today.

The dispute is over a prehistoric stone circle, at Castlerigg, Northumbria, owned by the trust but the stones are in the guardianship of the commission.

The trust is resisting the commission's proposal to excavate the site. But Mr Peter Rumble, the commission's chief executive, plans to tell the meeting that the trust's attitude is deplorable and unnecessary.

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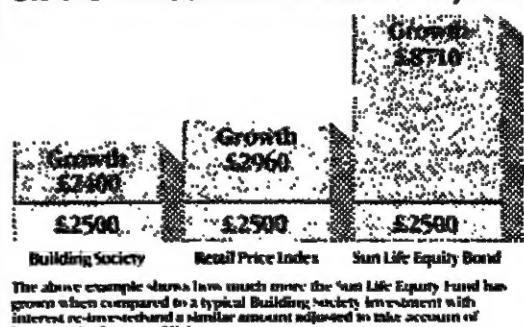
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## Mitterrand's goodwill gesture

## French make U-turn on fighter

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

President Mitterrand announced yesterday that France was now willing to take part in the project for a European fighter aircraft, from which it withdrew in August.

French policy was being reversed "as a gesture of goodwill towards European cooperation", he said after one of his regular meetings with Chancellor Kohl of West Germany.

When France withdrew from the project, Spain did so too. That left Britain, West Germany and Italy.

M. Mitterrand's change of mind came as a surprise here, but it had been noticed that he had arrived with an entourage much larger than usual on his visit here. It included Mr Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, M Roland Dumas, the Foreign Minister, and M Paul Quilès, the Defence Minister.

Both countries seem to be making efforts to compose the differences which arose between them at the Bonn Western economic summit in May when they disagreed about, among other things, the United States "Strategic Defence Initiative - France being against it and West Germany guardedly in favour in principle.

There are still differences on that issue. The French are said to have complained here that the tone towards SDI being used by Herr Kohl, who seems to be for it, is different from that of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, who seems to be against. This made it difficult for Paris to guess what West Germany's final decision would be.

France is against SDI mainly because it does not believe it would protect West Europe and because the acquisition by the Soviet Union of a similar system would make obsolete the



President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl at their news conference yesterday.

French nuclear deterrent.

These differences seem to have convinced both France and West Germany that a show of cooperation on other matters is now essential. M Mitterrand also announced that France and West Germany would jointly propose to the Luxembourg EEC summit in December new measures on the environment and technology.

France originally withdrew from the fighter-plane project partly because of disagreement with Britain, which wanted the aircraft to be heavier than France required. France wanted it to be light enough for aircraft

carriers. Since the French withdrawal, officials in Paris have made it known that Europe might need two aircraft: one light and one heavier.

But the objection to the original project seemed to be abandoned when M Mitterrand

announced yesterday. "France has asked to take a participation of 18 per cent in the European combat plane. If it is not 10 per cent, it will be 5 per cent. What is important is the symbol, and France does not ask for anything in exchange.

## Israelis fear Arafat is improving PLO image

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel is worried that Mr Yasser Arafat is succeeding in his effort to rehabilitate the Palestine Liberation Organization in Arab and world opinion.

Foreign Ministry officials here believe that King Hussein of Jordan has hardened his position in support of the PLO over the past week, that Egypt is doing its best to establish good relations, and that attempts to bring about a reconciliation with Syria could be under way, possibly with King Hussein acting as a go-between.

At the same time Mr Arafat's statement in Cairo on Thursday that the PLO would renounce the use of violence but support "the rights of the Palestinian people to fight against Israeli occupation in all possible ways" is seen as nothing but a public relations exercise aimed at stopping world criticism following the hijacking of the liner Achille Lauro.

Israel does not believe Mr Arafat has the authority to enforce his statement, but it believes that it may succeed in calming world opinion. Its worry was underlined in a very strong attack against Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, for even allowing the statement to be made.

Mr Shamir said that the statement, issued after a meeting between Mr Arafat and President Mubarak, could not be trusted.

## Craxi wins Senate confidence vote

From John Earle, Rome

Italy has rejected Israel's protest against remarks in Parliament by Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, which Israel construed as condoning terrorism by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Prime Minister's office said in a statement that the Israeli interpretation was "absolutely incorrect". A copy of Signor Craxi's speech had been given to the Israeli Embassy.

Relations with Israel have been strained since Rome strongly condemned Israel's bombing attack on the PLO headquarters near Tunis.

The Prime Minister's office made the rejection known shortly before the confidence vote yesterday in the Senate.

which the Government won by 180 votes to 142.

The four coalition partners of Signor Craxi's Socialists - the Christian Democrats, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals - had all expressed concern over the Prime Minister's attitude towards the PLO.

In the Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday, after the return to the fold of the Republican ministers, Signor Craxi recalled that Israel had been occupying Arab territories for 18 years. It should give back these territories in exchange for peace.

"I contest to the PLO the use of armed struggle, not because it does not have a right to it, but because it will not lead to any solution. I do not, however, contest the legitimacy (of armed struggle), which is another matter."

In yesterday's speech, Signor Craxi described Israel as "a friendly state, despite the polemics and unfounded protests" and appealed for "an act of far-sightedness and generosity" from it, namely the return of the occupied territories.

He did not repeat his earlier words but emphasised the right of the Palestinian people to a national identity, citing in support of this United Nations resolutions.

Any prospect of a revolt among the coalition allies had already been quelled, however, when the Socialists lined up with their partners in supporting a motion which said the PLO could play a role in the Middle East peace-making process "only if it follows without reserve the road of peaceful negotiation".

## Palestinian car bomb kills airline manager

Nicosia (AP) - A booby-trapped car exploded here yesterday and killed the manager of Iraqi Airlines. A few minutes earlier another bomb had damaged the airline's office.

An anonymous caller later telephoned a news agency office in Bahrain to claim responsibility on behalf of the pro-Syrian Eagles on the Revolution Organization.

He claimed that the airline was operating "an undercover Iraqi intelligence centre in Cyprus," and said that this was the first of several operations

against the Iraqi Government in retaliation for its support for Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO.

Police said that Mr Halid Ibrahim Aadam, aged 45, died when the bomb exploded as he tried to start his car at his suburban home to drive to his office.

The telephone caller said the Eagles of the Revolution was a long-standing Palestinian organization which had carried out operations in Turkey, Cyprus and Egypt.

## Iranian planes pound Iraq

Tehran (Reuters) - Iran said its planes bombed a steel mill in southern Iraq and a military base in the north yesterday, two days after Iraqi planes attacked a big Iranian steel mill.

The national news agency IRNA quoted a war communiqué as saying the steel mill was south of al-Amarah and the military installation east of Arbil.

Thirty-three Iraqi planes attacked a big steel rolling mill complex near the Iranian city of Ahvaz on Wednesday. Ahvaz radio said 28 Iraqis died in the attack. Iraq said the factory was destroyed.

## Gandhi peeved by Thatcher

## India gives Britain the cold shoulder

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

There are signs that the visit of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to London, the Commonwealth conference and New York, has not improved relations between his country and the West. Indeed, a number of indications show that matters have got rather worse.

The coolest applies particularly to the United States, but Britain is coming in for some heavy criticism too.

One sign of the lack of warmth for Britain is the deliberate snub given to a party of British MPs on a tour of sub-continental countries in search of facts with which to build a new policy on India. The party, led by Mr John Wainwright, included two other Tory MPs, Mr John Hunt and Mr Jeremy Hanley, and one Labour MP, Mr Anthony Lloyd.

No official MP minister or even clerk belonging to the Indian Government met the party on arrival at Delhi airport, and no official Indian would receive a visit from them during their short stay. While they were in Islamabad, however, President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan fetted the group, gave them an official reception and fed them a switch Pakistan propaganda. Lieutenant General Ershad of Bangladesh promises to do the same when they visit Dhaka.

Reports in the Indian newspapers indicate that Mr Gandhi is feeling distinctly peeved by Mrs Thatcher's success at the Nassau Commonwealth summit in preventing any serious action against the South African Government. What is said to have annoyed him even more is her boast to the press that she had made only "tiny concessions".

The summit, and later the meeting with President Reagan at the UN were seen by some non-aligned nations as a test for Mr Gandhi; to see how far he was able to influence the Western leaders, after the public relations success he had enjoyed on his earlier tour. If there was such a test, he plainly failed it, and is feeling correspondingly aggrieved.

## Pretoria policy under attack

His grievance may be all the greater because of the publicly accommodating attitude he had earlier taken towards the sale of British Westland helicopters. The sale, incidentally, has still not been finalized, despite the presence in Delhi of many leading figures of the British

aerospace industry at a British seminar and exhibition, including Sir John Treacher, the Westland chairman.

The Delhi English-language newspaper, *Patriot*, which generally follows a pro-Communist line, but which has recently been an ardent supporter of the Prime Minister, on Thursday carried a bitter attack on Mrs Thatcher's "folly" over South Africa.

It suggested that her policy of protecting British investment in South Africa might be "penny-wise, pound-foolish" since "the African and Asian members of the Commonwealth have been slighted and Mrs Thatcher should not forget that some of them are important trading partners of Britain."

The anonymous writer reminds his readers that a few years ago Malaysia decided to hit Britain where it hurt most, in the pocket. "It decided not to buy from Britain if there was an alternative supplier," he said. "There is no shortage of suppliers and if a few of the African and Asian countries decide to pursue this line Mrs Thatcher might be compelled to have second thoughts."

## Anger over UN speech by Reagan

Mr Gandhi's anger with President Reagan stems from a similar failure. Mr Reagan declined to mention South Africa in his UN speech, despite having reportedly received a personal request to do so from the Indian Prime Minister.

There was no yielding either to Mr Gandhi's urgent representations over Pakistan's nuclear bomb. Mr Gandhi was openly bitter about this at his airport press conference, on returning from the US visit. He also managed to get a dig at the United States into his speech on the anniversary of his mother's assassination, condemning the attitude of "certain super-powers" - though no one was in any doubt as to who he meant - towards the apartheid regime, and relating how the ambassador of a big country had put pressure on the government of a Third World country not to take a firm stand on apartheid.

Diplomats in Delhi have suggested that this feeling of discontent with the West goes some way to explaining Mr Gandhi's unheralded stopover in Moscow to meet Mr Mikhail Gorbachev on his way home from the West.

## Bhopal leak 'sabotage'

Bombay (Reuters) - A senior executive of Union Carbide India says that the company suspected from the beginning that sabotage caused the Bhopal gas leak which killed about 500 people in December. He was commenting on a statement in London by Mr Jackson-Browning, a vice-president of the American parent company.

The Indian executive, who did not want to be identified, said today: "We suspected the possibility of a sabotage right at the outset."

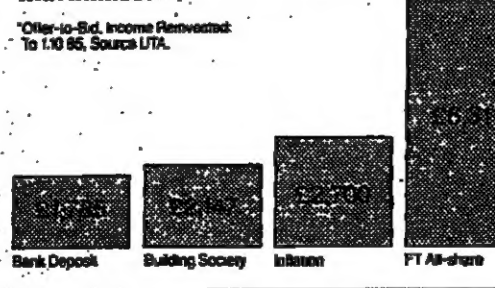
nate gas leaked as a result of a chemical reaction set off when up to 240 gallons of water was introduced into a storage tank. Mr Browning, vice-president in charge of health, safety and environmental affairs, told an international conference on Thursday: "We have all but ruled out anything but a deliberate act."

In Bhopal, a taxi driver father of six said that he, his wife and the children will commit suicide by burning themselves in kerosene on the first anniversary of the disaster on December 3 to protest against India's alleged refusal to help victims.

# THE SOUND WAY TO INVEST IN STOCKS & SHARES

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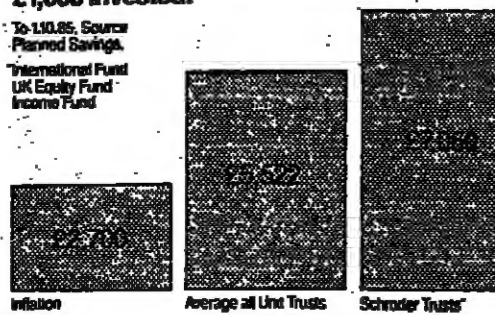
Shares, unlike bank or building society deposits, can give you an inflation-beating stake in the future. The table indicates returns on £1,000 over 10 years\* compared with inflation.



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Annual Income	£353	£344	£766	£835	£953	£1,085
Capital	£12,633	£10,952	£13,564	£15,434	£18,000	£20,000

The table above shows full year returns to last figures. Six months ended Sept 30, 1985 produced income of 2.5% and increased the capital to £20,400.

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**Schroder Financial Management**

LIMITED



# Republican senator makes last-ditch attempt to stop Soviet ship sailing

From Michael Binyon  
Washington

The captain of the Soviet grain freighter in the Mississippi was preparing to set sail yesterday after refusing to accept a subpoena ordering a Ukrainian sailor, who had apparently tried to defect, to appear before the Senate on Tuesday. But US customs authorities said they were legally obliged to block the departure until the order on Thursday to deliver the subpoena, taken out by Senator Jesse Helms, the conservative Republican chairman of the agriculture committee, in a last-ditch effort to prevent the ship leaving. The captain turned the aides away on Thursday night, saying that he would have to wait for Soviet Embassy officials to arrive.

He said that Miroslav Medvid, the sailor who was returned after twice swimming ashore and later told State Department officials that he did not want political asylum, was "very upset", but he would not elaborate.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian and conservative protest groups circling the freighter in chartered boats claimed that Medvid was being held below decks in shackles. They said this has been indicated by signs from other Soviet sailors, to whom

## 'Deeper dialogue' welcomed

Mrs Thatcher has welcomed the prospect of "deeper dialogue" with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, about arms control issues (Our Political Correspondent writes).

But Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, told the Commons yesterday that the Prime Minister's response to Mr Gorbachev's October invitation to start talks firmly restated Britain's position that there could be no negotiation about Britain's last-resort nuclear deterrent.

He said during the debate on the Queen's Speech that Britain would review its position only if there were "radical reductions in the superpowers' arsenals, without any significant change in Soviet defensive capability".

It is hoped that exploratory talks on arms control could take place when Mr Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, takes up Sir Geoffrey's invitation to visit Britain.

the protesters were calling out encouragements to defect. The protesters included Ohio residents claiming to be related to Medvid. One held up a notice

saying: "Medvid, your aunt loves you."

Senators and Administration officials have said the affair could turn into a dangerous Soviet-American confrontation on the eve of the Geneva summit. After interviewing Medvid off the ship last week, the State Department said the matter was closed, but President Reagan asked the Justice Department to see if there was a way of getting him off the ship again for further questioning. Senator Helms said the sailor's life was in danger the moment the ship left US waters.

After an impassioned debate, some Senators warned that the Russians might take reprisals by detaining a US ship or insisting on a US crew member going ashore for questioning. Others questioned whether Senator Helms's action was legal. Federal judges have refused to become involved.

President Reagan will make a 10-minute radio address today to the Soviet people over the Voice of America about his hopes for the summit. His request to do so on Soviet television was brusquely refused by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, who simply said "no" to Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, in Moscow on Tuesday.

The address will be broadcast in several languages.

## Nominee of Reagan fails Nato quiz

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

President Reagan's nominee as United States ambassador to Sweden has run into embarrassing trouble in confirming his hearing in the Senate. Although his political credentials appear to be impeccably Reaganite, he could not, under questioning, say how many countries are in Nato, nor explain Nato's defence strategy.

Mr Gregory Newell, aged 36, a former Assistant Secretary of state, has been asked to return to the Senate for more questioning. "I find it difficult to be sending an ambassador to Sweden who doesn't know how many countries are in Nato," Senator Joseph Biden, a Democrat from Delaware, told the hearing before the Senate foreign relations committee.

He posed other questions to Mr Newell, which failed to elicit answers, including one about Nato's strategy on responding to nuclear attack. Such embarrassments are not new to Mr Biden said that, while Mr Newell's political qualifications were excellent, he was not nearly as suited to an ambassadorship as two other nominees at the hearings, both career foreign service officers, Mr Robert Barry, nominated as ambassador to the conference on confidence and security building measures and disarmament in Europe, and Mr Roger Kirk, envoy-designate to Romania.

## The Yurchenko affair Woman said to have jilted KGB chief

From John Best, Ottawa

The bizarre case of the Soviet intelligence agent, Mr Vitaly Yurchenko, has taken a strange new twist with a report that he came to Canada to meet a Soviet woman who then jilted him.

The Canadian Press news agency reported on Thursday that Canadian authorities helped the US Central Intelligence Agency to get Mr Yurchenko into Canada for the trial.

The woman, said to be the wife of a Soviet diplomat here, refused to become a defector with him and broke off their love affair.

Asked to comment on the report, a spokesman for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Mr Gerry Cummings, said: "We're not going to confirm or deny that Yurchenko was here."

**Chile police HQ blasted**  
Santiago (Reuters) - A car bomb exploded outside the headquarters of Chile's secret police yesterday after President Pinochet reshuffled the top ranks of the Army's general corps.

The blast blew a hole in the wall of the National Information Centre (CNI) and shattered windows of surrounding buildings.

Witnesses said that the stolen vehicle was left in a heavily guarded street outside the CNI headquarters, where parking is banned but where traffic police leave cars recovered from accidents or robberies.

The attack, soon after midnight, followed a day of violent anti-government protests in which four people died, 100 were injured.

Nervous CNI agents brandishing machine guns detained reporters who arrived at the scene of the car bomb attack and confiscated film taken by photographers.

## Indian joins apartheid mediators

By Nicholas Ashford  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Swaran Singh, former Indian Foreign Minister, has agreed to join the committee of "eminent persons" which the Commonwealth is setting up in an attempt to promote dialogue between the South African Government and representative black leaders towards ending apartheid.

He joins Lord Barber and Mr Malcolm Fraser, the former Australian Prime Minister, who have already agreed to take part.

However, a number of vacancies still have to be filled before the committee can begin the task laid down for it at last month's Commonwealth summit in Nassau.

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has just returned from Canada where he sought to persuade Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Canadian Prime Minister, to take part. Mr Trudeau is reluctant to do so, though he said he would take a final decision next week.

One, possibly two, nominees from Africa and one from the Caribbean have also still to be decided. The name of ex-President Nyerere of Tanzania has been mentioned as a possible African candidate.

**Burma Railway survivors pay homage**  
From Alan Hamilton  
Kanchanaburi, Thailand

War widows and veterans of the Forgotten Army wept yesterday during a remembrance service at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery where more than 6,000 British, Commonwealth and Dutch victims of the infamous Burma Railway are buried.

Shaded from the intense heat by a mango tree at the centre of the immaculately tended graveyard, the small knot of pilgrims sang: "Oh God our help in ages past" and observed the traditional two minutes' silence before scattering to seek the individual headstones of husbands and close friends.

The pilgrims are part of a British Government-sponsored visit to sites associated with the Far East campaign and for most it has been their first chance to visit the area since the end of the war. Most have found it an emotional experience but have welcomed what is likely to be their only opportunity to pay homage to those who died at the hands of the Japanese.

## Pentagon figures on Ptarmigan disputed

From Our Correspondent Washington

The American partner of Plessey, the British company that failed to sell its Ptarmigan battlefield communications system to the Americans, is to lodge a legal appeal against the Pentagon's decision to award the contract to a French rival.

It now emerges that the Pentagon itself costed the respective French and British bids. Both governments have been startled by the difference of \$3.1 billion between the two. The Pentagon now expects the British Government to seek an explanation of why Plessey's bid was priced so extraordinarily high compared to the French one. It is unlikely, however, that the Pentagon will give Britain a detailed look at the books.

The Pentagon costed the Ptarmigan system, which would have been produced by Plessey in association with the American concern, Rockwell International, at \$7.4 billion against \$4.3 billion for the French Rita system produced by GTE-Thomson, the army announced on Tuesday that the contract will go to France.

Neither side can comprehend how the Pentagon produced such a vast cost difference.

## World chess title hangs on today's final game

By Raymond Keene

A close 14-month duel for the world chess championship ends in the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow tonight with a tense climax in the final game between the holder, Anatoly Karpov, and his challenger, Gary Kasparov.

Kasparov, who has accumulated 12 points, has only to draw to become, at 22, the youngest world champion in the 100 years since the title was founded.

Karpov must win to reach 12 points and tie the match. Fide (World Chess Federation) regulations introduced in May mean that a drawn match will be enough for Karpov to retain the title he has held for 10 years.

Kasparov's chances of holding the draw he so desperately needs are theoretically excellent. To add to his confidence, after 27 games of the first match, Kasparov was able to succeed in avoiding defeat for the next 21 games when a loss in any one would have given Karpov the title.

Karpov has nevertheless been showing tremendous spirit and determination over the last four games of this match, and his chances of resurrection cannot be discounted.

Game 23, played on Thursday, represented a moral victory for Karpov, who withstood Kasparov's pressure and survived severe time trouble to force a clearly drawn position at the close of the first session.

**Freedom for jailed boxer**

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, once a leading middleweight boxer and jailed 19 years ago for murder, is expected to be free this weekend after a judge overturned his conviction.

The case has been a cause célèbre, with Mr Carter's supporters claiming he was framed. Bob Dylan recorded the song Hurricane on his behalf and Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight champion, was among those who supported him.

Judge H. Lee Sarokin in Newark Federal Court, New

## Agenda of US visit

## Washington smitten with royal fever

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

They arrive today. It's on nearly every front page, every news bulletin. Weighty columnists are analysing it. Flights into Washington are overbooked because of it. People are driving hundreds of miles to see it. More than 500 newspaper and television people are assigned to cover it. It's the visit of Charles and Di.

They landed in Hawaii yesterday, where they were inevitably draped in garlands of flowers, en route to Washington from Australia. They arrive at Andrews Air Force base today and head for the White House to meet President and Mrs Reagan.

Then it's off to the official residence of Sir Oliver Wright, Britain's Ambassador to the United States, where they are staying. They return to the White House in the evening for a gala dinner.

The real crowds begin tomorrow. The Prince and Princess of Wales will attend morning service at Washington Cathedral, where nearly 2,000 seats will, for once, all be occupied.

Afterwards they will go to the National Gallery of Art to see the spectacular exhibition "The Treasure Houses of Britain: Five hundred years of private patronage and art collecting". They are both patrons of the exhibition and, indeed, have lent a painting.

Tonorrow afternoon they disappear from public view during a private visit to the

mansion in the Virginia hunt country of Mr Paul Mellon, a millionaire philanthropist and art connoisseur. At night they attend a dinner at the British Embassy given by Sir Oliver and Lady Wright.

From such lofty plains the couple descend on Monday to Springfield Mall in Virginia, a sprawling shopping conglomerate in a quiet, middle-class suburb of Washington, where they will observe the "Best of British" promotion at the J.C. Penney department store. It is a huge coup for Penney, which is trying to move its nationwide empire up-market.

Monday is Veteran's Day in America. In the afternoon they visit Arlington National Cemetery where Prince Charles will lay wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and at the memorial to Field Marshal Sir John Dill, who was head of the British joint staff mission in the United States during the Second World War and the senior British member of the Combined Chiefs of Staff. He died in 1944.

On Tuesday Washington says goodbye. The couple fly to Palm Beach, Florida, where Prince Charles will play in a friendly polo match. The Princess will present a trophy to the winners. They will stay overnight privately at the Palm Beach Polo and Country Club and leave for London on Wednesday morning.

## Sikhs face Air-India charges

From John Best  
Ottawa

Two Canadian Sikhs appeared in court yesterday on charges prepared by police investigating the Air-India disaster and the Narita airport bombing.

The precise charges were not made public in advance, but were believed to relate to possession of explosives. The court appearance was at Dunsmuir, on Vancouver Island.

Mr Talwinder Singh Parmar and Mr Indjit Singh Khalsa were arrested in a widespread series of police raids on Thursday night on the island and in the Vancouver area of British Columbia.

The two areas, which contain the largest concentration of Sikhs in Canada, have been a focus of police attention since Air-India flight 182 crashed off Ireland on June 23, with the loss of all 329 people on board, en route from Montreal to India via London.

At about the same time two baggage handlers were killed at Narita airport, Tokyo, when a bomb went off in luggage unloaded from a Canadian Pacific Airlines flight from Vancouver. Some reports have suggested that it may have been in transit to a connecting flight to India.

The cause of the Air-India crash has not definitely been established but it too is believed to have been caused by a bomb. Police suspect a link between the two tragedies, with Vancouver the originating point for bombs placed in baggage earmarked separately for the two flights.

Mr Parmar, a Canadian citizen since 1975, was arrested in Burnaby, just outside Vancouver. He is the founder of an extreme Sikh fundamentalist group dedicated to the creation of an independent Sikh homeland in Punjab.

Mr Khalsa was arrested in Dunsmuir after a police search that began as some 100 Sikhs were about to conduct an evening prayer service.

## ETA arms racket uncovered in Belgium

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgium has uncovered an international arms smuggling racket involving the Basque separatist movement ETA after a two-year investigation, the public prosecutor here said.

He confirmed press reports saying the smuggling involved the military wing of ETA in what could be the biggest such case in Belgian history, but gave no further details.

The racket was traced to Belgium when investigators discovered that one of the smuggled weapons was used in an ETA attack on a Spanish police, newspapers said.

## Divers save 15 after pit flood

Peking (Reuters) - Naval divers saved 15 miners in Shanxi province's Jicheng mine by swimming 360 yards along a flooded shaft 3,000 ft under ground but seven other mine-workers died, the Guomindang Daily reported.

The survivors were found on the seventh day and brought chocolate, grape juice and lettuce. The water was finally pumped out allowing the workers to emerge after days underground.

## Tanker seized

An armed Iranian commando seized a Greek supertanker, under low and abandoned by the crew after being hit by an Iraqi missile earlier this week, and ordered it to the Iranian island of Sirri, Lloyd's Shipping Intelligence said.

## GEC in Peking

Peking (Reuters) - Negotiators from Britain's General Electric Company will arrive here this weekend to resume talks on a planned nuclear power station near Hong Kong, diplomatic sources said. The GEC team left Peking last month after failing to agree with China on prices for non-nuclear equipment.

## ANC man dies

Johannesburg (Reuters) - James Moroka, a former president of the African National Congress, died in Bloemfontein yesterday, aged 95.

## Suicide raid

Frankfurt (Reuters) - A bank robber shot himself through the head after realizing he had carried out a raid opposite a police station here, while making off with the equivalent of \$4,000.

## Weapons haul

Brisbane (AFP, AP) - Two Frenchmen will appear in court here next week after Australian Customs seized more than 30 rifles and ammunition from a French yacht bound for Noumea, New Caledonia.

## Kenyan car

Nairobi (AP) - The Uhuru, the first saloon car to be assembled in Kenya has been unveiled by General Motors Kenya Ltd.

## Sight restored

Stockholm (AFP) - An operation has restored the sight of a 102-year-old woman who went blind two years ago, a Swedish news agency reported.

## Great granny

JAKARTA (Reuters) - A 65-year-old grandmother has spent 16 years and worn out 70 pairs of shoes to achieve her ambition of walking the length and breadth of Indonesia, which comprises more than 13,000 islands and stretches more than 3,000 miles.

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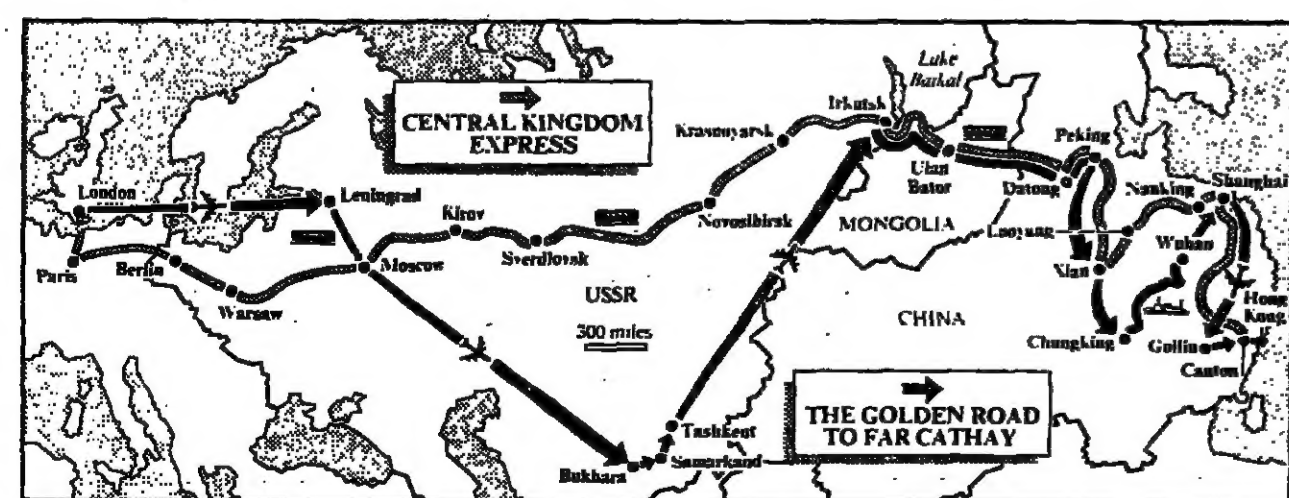
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## Fears of coup threaten Thai partnership of military and civilians

Thailand this year has suffered a violent military rebellion against the government, numerous Vietnamese frontier violations, the influx of 230,000 Cambodian refugees, business scandals which have upset society and the financial system, and the worst economic troubles for 20 years.

In spite of claims of progress towards full democracy, Parliament has been allowed no voice in these ominous events.

The Government has refused to recall Parliament, which sits for only 30 days a year. Its exclusion has increased fear and uncertainty about the future.

Bangkok is so awash with rumours of military moves against the civilian Government that General Arthit Kamlang-Ek, the Supreme Commander, has twice within a week warned Thai that baseless rumours could lead to "a storm".

"There was no conflict," he said, between the Government, which contains no serving military officers, and the armed forces, and he called on his men to have faith and confidence in their superiors.

General Arthit's statements about rumours which he says are based on both "misinformation and fact" convince many people that something is indeed going on. There is wide belief that a new coup may be tried to prevent 40 key suspects, including the former Prime Minister, General Kriangsak Chomanan, from disclosing at their trial damaging facts about the unsuccessful September coup.

General Arthit says he will soon allow the trial to take its course, with no amnesties. Evidence will begin on December 4 amid deep public doubts that only the men in the dock.

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

retired generals and junior officers were involved.

If the Criminal Court were allowed to investigate the highest places, officials fear that the disclosures could shake the nation.

Attempts to cover up such revelations would be resisted as newspapers, now less amenable to censorship, venture into previously forbidden areas. Some published Swedish reports that at the time of the coup General Arthit was enjoying improper VIP entertainment provided by a local company in Stockholm.

General Arthit denied the reports, and is quoted as saying "I had just got off the plane. How could I have found a girl to sleep with? I was exhausted."

He has not explained why some of his officers rebelled in September, but the common view is that they were prompted by personal ambition, greed and a desire to pay off old scores.

The said they wanted to displace the Government because of its failure to deal with

economic problems. According to the president of the Bangkok Bank, Thailand is in its worst economic plight for 20 years.

General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Prime Minister, admitted that the coup had further damaged the economy by frightening foreign investors. Confidence in General Prem's ability to improve the economy has been weakened, as it has been in his power to keep the military in check.

He has been seen frequently with General Arthit in recent days. They appear in good terms, though they had a serious dispute a year ago over devaluation of the Thai currency. General Arthit had to back down, a humiliation which damaged his public stature. He is no longer spoken of as the most likely next Prime Minister.

The front runner is the new Chief of the Army Staff, General Chaovalit Yongchaiyuth, who says he will retire from the Army in two years. Government's tenure expires in 1987.

As a close adviser to the Prime Minister, he could count on General Prem's support. But there will be opposition from other generals.

Anxious to dispel impressions that he is soft on communist insurgents, General Chaovalit has announced that elements of the outlawed Communist Party were involved in September.

He took the opportunity to suggest that the day of the coup attempt conflicting orders from the Prime Minister and from General Arthit, both of whom were abroad, had caused "an absence of command" in government forces.



General Prem: Losing credibility

### The greening of Africa

## Cairo meeting will launch environment clean-up

From Charles Harrison  
Nairobi

Ministers from 35 African countries meeting in Cairo next month are expected to approve a plan for long-term solutions to some African environmental problems through grassroots development projects centred on selected villages.

They are also likely to approve a regular conference of African environment ministers, with a permanent secretariat, to administer a programme to reduce the famine threat and to transform the lives of African villagers through low-cost projects, such as village bio-gas schemes and small hydro-electric plants.

Work has been done for two years by the Nairobi-based United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity, and other agencies.

African countries will be asked to agree at the Cairo meeting on December 16 to move about 5 per cent of the funds they receive from the UN development programme into the new plan, about £40 million a year for the next five years. This will finance the foreign currency component. Individual states have to meet local costs.

Dr Mostafa Tolba, UNEP executive director, yesterday

### Madagascar warned

Madagascar needs draconian conservation measures to avoid an environmental disaster, the Duke of Edinburgh told a nine-day government-sponsored ecological conference in Antananarivo.

He said that "firm and perhaps painful steps" were needed for Madagascar to escape a looming environmental catastrophe.

The conference, attended by the Duke of Edinburgh as president of the World Wildlife Fund, is debating preserving the island's rare animals and agriculture.

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Dr Mostafa Tolba, UNEP executive director, yesterday

### Son of former NZ Premier convicted of fraud

Wellington (Reuters) - A former New Zealand Member of Parliament, the son of a former Prime Minister, was sentenced yesterday to four months' periodic detention on criminal bankruptcy charges.

The judge said it was clear that John Kirk, aged 38, had embarked on a course of fraudulent conduct to beat creditors. Mr Kirk, the son of the former Prime Minister, Mr Norman Kirk, pleaded guilty to three charges.

Defence counsel said Mr Kirk's job as an MP was insecure and he had tried to move into property speculation. When this failed, he had debts of 263,000 New Zealand dollars.

The judge said that in July, 1984, he was unable to pay his creditors and left illegally for the United States (£8,500) in travellers' cheques and 32 gold kruggerands.

### Seoul confines Kim Dae Jung for torture claim

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korea's leading dissident, Mr Kim Dae Jung, has been placed under house arrest for the fourth time since he returned in February from two years' exile in the United States.

His aids said that about 100 policemen surrounded his house yesterday after the local police chief told him of the measure, which is designed to prevent Mr Kim's attending a dissident meeting on alleged torture in South Korea.

Mr Kim, aged 59, who is barred from politics because of a suspended 20-year jail sentence for sedition, advises a committee of dissidents, opposition MPs and priests campaigning against torture.

The committee on Monday asked the United Nations human rights committee to send a team to South Korea to investigate.

## Heroin arrests in Malta

From Our Correspondent, Valletta

Maltese police have arrested 12 foreigners after the discovery of a large quantity of heroin worth £5 million. The drug is reported to have been discovered in suitcases with false bottoms after a raid on two hotels.

Five Sri Lankans and an Indian, all in their 20s, were charged on Thursday with offences including drug trafficking and possessing a false passport. Two more Sri Lankans and an Italian were charged with similar offences yesterday. Three other Italians have been detained for ques-

tioning in connection with the case, officials sources said.

In recent months international reports have repeatedly indicated Malta as a centre for drug trafficking aimed at southern Europe, because of its position in the Mediterranean and the recent severe restrictions imposed in Italy and its tightened security.

The Maltese Parliament is tightening the drugs laws to allow prison sentences of seven to 20 years and fines of up to 50,000 Maltese lire (£80,000) for traffickers and pushers.



Mrs Carole Jalbert (right) with her newborn baby Kristen Jennifer and her sister Sherry King in Malden, Massachusetts, who was surrogate mother to the child after being artificially inseminated with sperm from Mr Jalbert.

### JAL crew to be retrained

Tokyo - The flight crew of the Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 that strayed off course last week approaching Soviet air space have been suspended from duty indefinitely (David Watts writes).

Captain Morihiko Nishioka, his co-pilot Mr Keichi Otsuka and flight engineer Mr Yoshinori Kasuya will be retrained on a flight simulator.

## Officials dismissed in Romanian energy crisis

From Richard Bassett  
Vienna

Two Romanian deputy ministers of energy have been dismissed for "failing to fulfil their tasks in connection with the power station at Tuceni", the official Romanian press reported yesterday.

The dismissals came less than a month after the appointment of a new Minister of Energy, Mr Ion Licu, who

was given the task of improving energy supplies.

Since October 18, when a state of emergency was declared, all Romania's power stations have been under strict military supervision.

From next January 1, all Czechoslovaks will have to have visas and hard currency if they wish to visit Hungary. Charter 77 circles have reported from Prague.

The hard currency regulations normally apply only to Czechoslovaks wishing to visit the West and is a virtually unprecedented demand for Warsaw Pact citizens wishing to visit a neighbouring country in the pact. Last year more than 100,000 Czechoslovaks visited Hungary.

Meanwhile, Rudolf Battik, aged 61, a dissident who was one of the first signatories of

Charter 77, has been released one month short of completing his five-and-a-half-year sentence, dissidents reported from Prague.

In Budapest, the Hungarian Government, which is hosting the European Cultural Forum, was embarrassed when delegates received an open letter protesting at the Hungarian authorities' treatment of Roman Catholic conscientious objectors.

# Dixons

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## SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

### Chariots of hire

If it was amazing that Zola Budd received so much money for losing her race with Mary Slaney, it was quite staggering that Mrs Slaney accepted so much less for winning. The dollar figures for that infamous race in July were \$125,000 to Miss Budd (which works out about £10,000 a minute) and a mere \$75,000 for La Slaney. Why on earth did Mrs Slaney, who has been famous far longer and is world champion to boot, accept \$50,000 less than Miss Budd's reward? The answer is that she thought they were both receiving the same money. Brad Hunt, then her manager, was last week spitting broken glass when the sums paid to the two were made public. He had, he said, quite certainly been under the impression that the athletes would receive equal money. As it turned out, Mrs Slaney will not be refusing to talk to everyone in British athletics. She is not only married to the British athlete Richard Slaney, but she is pregnant as well.

### Dangerous waters

Will Thames barges ever be safe again? I'm sure no one has forgotten what happened to the Cambridge crew in the 1985 Boat Race, when they performed an outboard naval manoeuvre and rammed a barge, coming off second best. Well, John Garrett and Geoff Barnard, both members of that ill-fated crew, have done it again. The two, both now members of the national squad, were training a coxless pair (the property of the Amateur Rowing Association) on the Tideway this week when they managed to hit another barge. "It was about the same size as the last one," said Garrett. "My fault." The pair managed to rescue their boat this time, however. I fear one of the crew of '84 has killed an albatross somewhere along the line.

### Fresh start

When IFK Gothenburg football team arrived in Istanbul from Sweden to play their European Cup second round second leg match against Fenerbahce this week they were handed bouquets of flowers. It made a nice contrast: when the Turks had landed in Sweden for the first leg, they were all strip-searched for drugs.

Carol Polis of Pennsylvania struck a blow for women when she served as a judge in the world title super bantamweight boxing match between Victor Calleja of Puerto Rico and Loris Stecca of Italy. She was the first woman to judge a world title bout.

### Expectations

Jockeys are in constant need of good excuses for the occasions when they finished anything worse than first. But Anthony Webster, the Old Etonian jump jockey, should go back to the drawing board after his explanation of his display on Donaghmoynne, a horse which trainer and owner had greatly fancied, and which was palpably worth a good punt. Webster, miles behind at the turn, finished like a train, but hopelessly out of touch with the leader. He said he lost the race because he had been thinking about his wife, who is expecting their second child. The explanation did not impress.

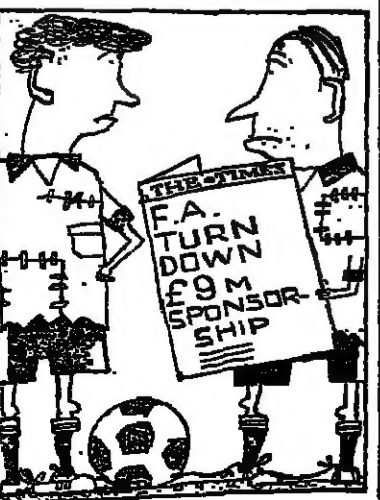
### Points taken

An attempt on the world squash endurance record began at Wembley Squash Centre yesterday. Amir Shaikh and Phillip Marlowe, eschewing sleep, aim to beat the current record of 121 hours, 16 minutes by playing for 125 hours, or six days and five nights.

### House style

On Thursday Philippe Edmonds, the self-confessed England all-rounder, opened Edmonds House and a series of other buildings named after other Middlesex cricketers of renown. They are all part of the Isleworth Business Complex. In his modest speech at the ceremony Edmonds, feeling that the buildings must reflect the nature of the men after whom they are named, said he confidently expected Edmonds House to be better furnished upstairs than the others. Radley House would certainly be the most durable, he added, although Gatting House was solid and well built, and would probably get better built and more solid by the day. He added, incidentally, that when Chris Cowdrey was about to bowl his first ball in Test cricket, David Gower asked him: "Would you like Gatt a little wider?" There is no answer to that.

BARRY FANTONI



'And they call the fans mindless'

# Money, morality and McCormack

This week's lawsuit could signal a change in sports management, writes David Miller

Tennis has finally had the courage to attempt what the rest of sport has often wanted sometimes needed to do for a long while: to tell Mark McCormack that he is getting too big for his boots.

The Men's International Professional Tennis Council (MIPTC) lawsuit filed this week against the International Management Group (IMG), McCormack's worldwide management agency, and against the ProServ agency of Donald Dell, claims that the agency's diversity of control - over players, tournaments, sponsors, television contracts, marketing, even commenting - is morally and practically damaging to tennis. The case could be a turning point away from the commercial domination of international sport by the few at the expense of the many.

Because of the power of television advertising - which ironically over the next 10 years may turn out to be in decline - international championships in many sports, and the competitors on whom they depend, have become ensnared in the technical expertise of management organisations which have the ability to put together a package.

The inquiry into sponsorship in 1983 by Britain's Central Council of Physical Recreation, under the chairmanship of Denis Howell, MP, demanded exposure of the details of McCormack's growing influence, but it lacked the power to penetrate the jungle of dealings in which the McCormack empire, whose clients in tennis include Ivan Lendl and Jimmy Connors, operates. Yet since

1983, the evidence supporting the inquiry's demand has increased. Nothing could better have illustrated this than the 3,000 metres race at Crystal Palace in July. The race was staged late in the evening to suit American television: Zola Budd was paid \$90,000 when finishing fourth behind Mary Slaney, who received \$54,000 (see diary story left). Cornelia Burki (Switzerland) and Ingrid Kristiansen (Norway), who also finished in front of Budd, got £2,000 between them. Mrs Slaney is one of McCormack's clients.

Such absurd disparities in appearance money lay at the heart of this week's vain attempt by the International Athletics Club of Britain to establish a legal obligation by the Amateur Athletic Association to disclose financial payments to competitors. The battle continues.

McCormack's company may be starting to suffer from an excessive application of his main principle: never to be afraid to push negotiations to the limits. The principle went badly astray during negotiations on US television rights for the Olympic Games in Seoul. IMG was an adviser to the South Korean committee and predicted a fee in excess of \$600 million.

The International Amateur Athletics Federation dug its heels in, refused to shift the timing of races to

suit American television, and the American networks insisted that ratings were anyway going down. A guaranteed contract was eventually signed with the International Olympic Committee for only \$300 million, the same as for the less appealing Calgary Winter Olympics, which will be in American prime-time viewing.

IMG seriously lost face. There has also been less-than-enthusiastic comment about its continuing involvement in the Open golf championship, and in Wimbledon tennis. But it is not any threat to the major tennis championships - Wimbledon, France, and the US - which lies at the centre of this most recent lawsuit. The MIPTC, and its chairman Mike Davies, are concerned that lesser tournaments on the grand prix circuit - two-thirds of which are under IMG influence, together with 40 per cent of the players - are allegedly being threatened that they will not get sponsorship and marketing control, including IMG's hefty percentage.

At the same time, it must be said that IMG performs a valuable service in many areas on which sport has become financially dependent. Without IMG's involvement, some sports and championships would today be bankrupt.

The difficulty in tennis is that MIPTC's action is a counter-claim to lawsuits by IMG and ProServ which say that MIPTC is trying to operate a closed shop. There is almost nobody in the game's administration with independent hands.

Unfortunately, few international sports administrative bodies, fashioned democratically over many years, possess the in-house expertise required to understand the commercial complexities which have mushroomed in the past decade. They feel obliged to employ the "package" specialists. The Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh next year, for example, are doing exactly that. But R. E. Haddingham, chairman of Wimbledon's committee, has hinted that ultimately Wimbledon could be capable of handling its own television and commercial marketing, rather than IMG.

The International Olympic Committee still handles its own television negotiations, a major source of income. But in order not to become over-dependent on television, it has now signed a marketing agreement with the agency ISL of Lucerne, jointly owned by Adidas and Dentsu of Japan, the 1988 Olympic Games. The contract, which lasts only four years, has raised criticism, though ISL does not control competitors. The details are to be disclosed to the 14 cities bidding for the 1992 summer and winter Games at a meeting in Lausanne next summer.

A. N. Author reports on Times readers' impressive response to the competition to celebrate its bicentenary in borrowed verse

## Poems worth the paper

I asked you - I positively begged you - for trouble when I commissioned a dozen lines from five major poets to celebrate the bicentenary of *The Times*, and you obliged me by the sackful.

It was trouble of the most diverting kind, with only a modicum of indifferent contributions and a good number which would have been proudly underwritten by our deceased models. To recap, they were, in order of appearance, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope and Betjeman.

Altogether you supplied me with no fewer than 148 versimilitudes, and the winner of each section will receive a bottle of *Times/Bollinger* champagne.

I received some raspberries too: one from a Guildford-based native of County Kerry, M. O'Halloran, for omitting from the lists not Swift or Yeats but McGonagall, that laird of the overscanned line; another from a Burnside in the school of education at Goldsmiths' College in London. I had better print Mr MacKarell's first stanza or I shall never hear the end of it:

Aw'd 'ye cheeky scribbler' chiel,  
Ye've giv'n Puir Burns a rank baid  
dearl  
Your bauld omission makes me squeal  
In righteous anger,  
And, Sir, in fine, it makes me feel,  
Ye've dropped a clanger!

Of the legitimate runners, Betjeman came fastest, if not furthest, from the starting traps. By my second post he had sent more efforts than the rest of the field combined. By the closing date, October 31, he had lodged the greatest number of poems (44), with Milton, always a

strong finisher, coming up on the rails at 31. Pope clocked 27, with Chaucer and Shakespeare tying at 23 each; so that the figures are, very roughly, in inverse proportion to the degree of posthumous longevity.

Shakespeare took longest to come up with the goods (his pile languished critically at a mere three for several days), and proved, not to my surprise, to be the most elusive initiate. But more of him anon.

To observe the chronology, I had some ringing Chaucers, most of them, I suspect, belonging to his third period, the years of maturity of 1386 to 1400. In this respect his mimics set themselves a hard task, for the apparent simplicities of his most famous work, *The Canterbury Tales*, veil a surprising density of style. It is not really enough to bung in some funny spelling (although I agree that the man himself could be inconsistent), a handful of "e" endings and the odd "yelept". Not that this is a general gripe: most of my Chaucers had a good tilt at authenticity. As you will see, the winner in this section set a pretty high standard. Should you complain that he is a bit on the difficult side, I would answer that so is the original without the aid of a Coghill. In addition to which, it is you will agree, just like the real thing (what higher praise!), and rewards the most thorough of scrutineers.

Many thanks to Laurie Wedd of Tonbridge for his portrait of our beguiling (Johnnie) Walter, and to Miss E. M. Watts of Monmouth and Laurence Cantwell of Hengoed, Mid Glamorgan, both of whom brought off daring pieces of anthropomorphism. The latter, like the winner, has *The Times* as an extra pilgrim:

Whenso a spoke men said they thought it thundered,  
He bragged 'if his years to be two hundred.

How does it take Shakespeare off? Well, with difficulty. Almost inevitably the efforts carried the greatest variety of any section, and my shortlist of five was the hardest gained. We had some ingenious verse playlets, a stanza commencing "Shall I compare thee to the *Telegraph*?" and a virtuoso bout of quotations from the canon, seamlessly run up by Liz Ward of North Humberdale.

Methinks thou art a prophet new inspired  
(Richard II Act II, 1, 31)

And thou, all shaking Thunderer,  
be praised. (Lear Act III, ii, 6)

To the last syllable recorded in *The Times*. (Macbeth Act V, iii, 21)

The Cantwell Shakespeare, like Cantwell Chaucer, had one lip on the Bollinger. Commiserations.

I particularly enjoy Shakespeare in techy humour, as my winning piece of Bardery testifies - even if the publication which now indulges him must also be his butt.

Milton was consistently good - the highest-averaged contributor of the five. Why, I wonder? Perhaps because he is a forbidding sort of poet, all lofty and latinate. You don't tackle such a proposition without a good grounding in the original. *Ode on the Morning of the Turner's Bicentenary* (to be sung to the Vaughan-Williams setting of "Ring Out, Ye Crystal Spheres") bespeaks a well-spent Oxford youth by Yvonne Whiteman of north London.

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A meticulously annotated fragment of *Paradise Lost* was "discovered" by William B. Hunter in the British Library, while another excellent multiple entrant, Eileen Edwards of Feltham, Middlesex, reworked the debate in Hell to great effect. The victor wins the bottle by the shortest of necks.

There must be something in the Thames valley air which aids the writing of Alexandrines, for my winning Pope comes from Teddington, just up the river from A.P.'s Twickenham home. My apologies to John Carswell of north-west London, who nearly stole the prize with his chronicle of earlier editorials.

When the serried columns scoured the plain,  
Prompt to the thunderings of fierce Delane

Then Scandal cover'd where dauntless Russell work'd,  
No secret hid if Blowitz sly lurk'd.

And so to Betjeman, all benignity and impishness by turns but not, apparently, made more imitable by his proximity to the present. As with Chaucer, stylistic tokens aren't enough - in Sir John's case not "yelept" but vicars, trains and tennis girls. There has to be more, and our winner supplies it with his - dare I say it? - downright sexuality. Plenty of worthy runners-up here, not least Kenneth Cleveland of west London.

Miss J. Hunter Dunn, Miss J. Hunter Dunn,  
The announcement will be in *The Times*, not *The Sun*.

My thanks to all those who helped raise the dead without lowering the tone. May we repeat the game in 2085, with or without McGonagall.

## John O'Sullivan Thinker, sailor, soldier, spy

What with Andrei Sakharov's telephone call, the case of Miroslav Medved (the sailor who had apparently changed his mind about defecting), the return to Russia of Aleksandr Sukhanov, the conscript who briefly sought refuge in the US embassy in Kabul, and the re-defection of KGB officer Vitaly Yurchenko, it has been an eventful week.

Coming just before a summit, and in batallions, these incidents attain a significance that they might not otherwise possess. But it is a significance that concerns ourselves rather than the Soviet Union. In every case, the Soviet Union has behaved in character. It is the West which has acted strangely.

Take, first, the fact that Andrei Sakharov was allowed to speak on the telephone to his family in the United States after an enforced silence of six years. Western observers interpret this as a shrewd move - a human rights concession designed to improve Russia's image on the eve of the summit.

If we consider that one telephone call in six years is a shrewd concession, what does that tell us about our expectations of the Soviet Union? It surely means that the blithe brutality with which they conduct their affairs is now so entrenched in our imagination that we accept it unthinkingly. We then become genuinely grateful for small mercies - no other kind being available.

To see the significance of the episode of the young Soviet soldier in Kabul, we must play the game of imagining it in reverse. This game is thought rather than form by those who regard the Soviet threat as a bore. Still, it surely means that the revealing results, what it reveals here is that we cannot really imagine this case in reverse. For starters, we would need a large US army occupying a country against the popular will, a US soldier who, on the eve of a summit, would be prepared to blockade the Soviet embassy with his own troops and those of the quiescent regime, in order to get the soldier handed back.

Any single one of these factors would be sufficient to bring mobs of peace activists on to the streets of western capitals. The combination would surely cause at least one American embassy to be burnt down amid the general approval of enlightened opinion. Unless I am mistaken, however, the same actions taken by Mikhail Gorbachev and his merry band of reformers have passed almost unnoticed. Even the American protest was pro forma and accompanied by the anxious assurance that this would not affect the summit.

Vitaly Yurchenko's re-defection remains an unsolved mystery. We do not know if he was a double agent all along, or a genuine defector who changed his mind. But there is no mystery about Soviet exploitation of the incident, taking up the world's front pages for several days with absurd allegations of CIA skulduggery and American hypocrisy on human rights. Whether this was an intelligence operation planned long in advance or an unexpected opportunity smartly seized, it was a deliberate action of aggressive diplomacy.

Fortunately the authorities were embarrassed - 1980's Medved's plight. He has been offered asylum, and given a subversive agent all along, or a genuine defector who changed his mind. But there is no mystery about Soviet exploitation of the incident, taking up the world's front pages for several days with absurd allegations of CIA skulduggery and American hypocrisy on human rights. Whether this was an intelligence operation planned long in advance or an unexpected opportunity smartly seized, it was a deliberate action of aggressive diplomacy.

The summit begins to assume the West's imagination the appearance of a Mottach - a deity of vast authority that dispenses few benefits, demands the occasional blood sacrifice and yet enjoys the superstitious reverence of priests and people.

Woodrow Wyatt

## Weapons that can save the world

Kingsley Martin, the most distinguished of *New Statesman* editors, used to say to me when I worked for him: "The communists are the heirs to the future. There is no point in resisting them." That must be the spirit which weakens the reason of multitudes of otherwise intelligent people in the West, particularly in the CND. Psychologically geared to ultimate Soviet domination, they read the fall of the Soviet version of events in preference to that of Washington or London.

This is illustrated vividly by the categorization of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative as an unjustified provocation to the Kremlin, designed to prevent agreement on reduction of nuclear missiles.

Few voices are heard on the BBC or elsewhere to say otherwise. So it was with pleasure and surprise that I listened last week to *Any Questions*. One of the team was Monsignor Bruce Kent, who deals in emotions, but another was Air Vice-Marshal Stewart Menaul, who deals in facts, especially on nuclear warfare in which he has long been an expert. He got more applause than Kent.

It is an indication of the success of those who are resigned to Soviet hegemony that almost everything the public has absorbed about SDI is the reverse of the truth. If they were willing to open their minds sincerely the CND would be clamouring for greater research and quicker development.

Far from heralding wars in the stars SDI is a system designed to prevent any nuclear ballistic missile exploding on its target. Missiles now being argued about at Geneva would be made obsolete.

The Russians have set up an anti-ballistic missile system called Galosh which encircles Moscow. It has every likelihood of preventing ballistic nuclear missiles landing on enemy missiles.

For eight years the Russians have been testing anti-satellite weapons armed with small explosive charges. They have held 19 tests; the Americans have held one such test. On this count perhaps both are in breach of the ABM treaty. But it is hypocritical of the Russians to attack the Americans on this count.

American diplomats and journalists reacted quickly to the provocation. They pointed out that since Yurchenko had absolved Reagan from active complicity in the alleged scheme to drug and abduct him, the Soviets were signalling widely that they wanted the summit to succeed as planned.

This forgiving view of Soviet actions contrasted sharply with criticism from the same observers against the US for poisoning the summit climate by complaining about carcinogenic tracking dust alleged to have been sprayed on American diplomats by the KGB. If it is true, as some reports allege, that Yurchenko was the source of information on that allegation, he has usefully established that Soviet espionage is relatively inept in western opinion - and certainly less offensive than American complaints about it.

Of the Soviet actions to be examined, two show an utter unconcern for any damage done to the prospects for a successful summit, and one a contemptuous judgement of the concessions required to keep the West sweet. Complete and contrast American eagerness not to offend in the Medved case.

Medved jumped into the Mississippi and swam to shore carrying his identity documents wrapped carefully in plastic. He told an interpreter that he wanted asylum. He was returned by officials nonetheless. When he was being ferried back, he leapt from the boat and attempted to escape again. He was again recaptured and carried onto the ship kicking, struggling and making a great deal of noise. An unpleasant fate awaited him there.

For most of the following weekend he was in Soviet hands. US officials saw him only at intervals. They found that his wrists had been cut - either by himself in despair, or by his captors for other reasons - and that he had been drugged (apparently on the orders of the Soviet embassy in Washington). When they questioned him in a supposedly unthreatening environment on US territory, and heard him declare that he had not intended to defect and wanted to return to the USSR, there were, always at least, four Soviet officials in attendance.

It is hard to see how this could be to find his original intentions "ambiguous" and his recantation truly "voluntary". But since state department officials were dealing with the case these were the judgements, initially reached. The administration then tried to insist that the matter was closed, and the press, ever summit-conscious, was cautious about disturbing matters.

Fortunately the authorities were embarrassed - 1980's Medved's plight. He has been offered asylum, and given a subversive agent all along, or a genuine defector who changed his mind. But there is no mystery about Soviet exploitation of the incident, taking up the world's front pages for several days with absurd allegations of CIA skulduggery and American hypocrisy on human rights. Whether this was an intelligence operation planned long in advance or an unexpected opportunity smartly seized, it was a deliberate action of aggressive diplomacy.

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Woodrow Wyatt

## Weapons that can save the world

Kingsley Martin, the most distinguished of *New Statesman* editors, used to say to me when I worked for him: "The communists are the heirs to the future. There is no point in resisting them." That must be the spirit which weakens the reason of multitudes of otherwise intelligent people in the West, particularly in the CND. Psychologically geared to ultimate Soviet domination, they read the fall of the Soviet version of events in preference to that of Washington or London.

This is illustrated vividly by the categorization of President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative as an unjustified provocation to the Kremlin, designed to prevent agreement on reduction of nuclear missiles.

Few voices are heard on the BBC or elsewhere to say otherwise. So it was with pleasure and surprise that I listened last week to *Any Questions*. One of the team was Monsignor Bruce Kent, who deals in emotions, but another was Air Vice-Marshal Stewart Menaul, who deals in facts, especially on nuclear warfare in which he has long been an expert. He got more applause than Kent.

It is an indication of the success of those who are resigned to Soviet hegemony that almost everything the public has absorbed about SDI is the reverse of the truth. If they were willing to open their minds sincerely the CND would be clamouring for greater research and quicker development.

Far from heralding wars in the stars SDI is a system designed to prevent any nuclear ballistic missile exploding on its target. Missiles now being argued about at Geneva would be made obsolete.

The Russians have set up an anti-ballistic missile system called Galosh which encircles Moscow. It has every likelihood of preventing ballistic nuclear missiles landing on enemy missiles.

For eight years the Russians have been testing anti-satellite weapons armed with small explosive charges. They have held 19 tests; the Americans have held one such test. On this count perhaps both are in breach of the ABM treaty. But it is hypocritical of the Russians to attack the Americans on this count.

American diplomats and journalists reacted quickly to the provocation. They pointed out that since Yurchenko had absolved Reagan from active complicity in the alleged scheme to drug and abduct him, the Soviets were signalling widely that they wanted the summit to succeed as planned.

This forgiving view of Soviet actions contrasted sharply with criticism from the same observers against the US for poisoning the summit climate by complaining about carcinogenic tracking dust alleged to have been sprayed on American diplomats by the KGB. If it is true, as some reports allege, that Yurchenko was the source of information on that allegation, he has usefully established that Soviet espionage is relatively inept in western opinion - and certainly less offensive than American complaints about it.

Of the Soviet actions to be examined, two show an utter unconcern for any damage done to the prospects for a successful summit, and one a contemptuous judgement of the concessions required to keep the West sweet. Complete and contrast American eagerness not to offend in the Medved case.

Medved jumped into the Mississippi and swam to shore carrying his identity documents wrapped carefully in plastic. He told an interpreter that he wanted asylum. He was returned by officials nonetheless. When he was being ferried back, he leapt from the boat and attempted to escape again. He was again recaptured and carried onto the ship kicking, struggling and making a great deal of noise. An unpleasant fate awaited him there.

For most of the following weekend he was in Soviet hands. US officials saw him only at intervals. They found that his wrists had been cut - either by himself in despair, or by his captors for other reasons - and that he had been drugged (apparently on the orders of the Soviet embassy in Washington). When they questioned him in a supposedly unthreatening environment on US territory, and heard him declare that he had not intended to defect and wanted to return to the USSR, there were, always at least, four Soviet officials in attendance.

It is hard to see how this could be to find his original intentions "ambiguous" and his recantation truly "voluntary". But since state department officials were dealing with the case these were the judgements, initially reached. The administration then tried to insist that the matter was closed, and the press, ever summit-conscious, was cautious about disturbing matters.

Fortunately the authorities were embarrassed - 1980's Medved's plight. He has been offered asylum, and given a subversive agent all along, or a genuine defector who changed his mind. But there is no mystery about Soviet exploitation of the incident, taking up the world's front pages for several days with absurd allegations of CIA skulduggery and American hypocrisy on human rights. Whether this was an intelligence operation planned long in advance or an unexpected opportunity smartly seized, it was a deliberate action of aggressive diplomacy.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## PRIVATE AIRPORTS

In financial terms, the Government's plan to sell the British Airports Authority to the public, confirmed in the Queen's Speech, will be dwarfed by the sale of British Gas (more than ten times as valuable) and British Airways. Yet the transfer of the crown of Britain's airports to the private sector is in some ways the most innovative and pioneering of the three. BAA is not a nationalized industry being returned to the private sector. It is a utility nurtured from infancy in public ownership, and developed so successfully as part of the nation's transport system that it has become a mature business well capable of holding its own in the private sector and sharing in the general benefits of privatization. Indeed, BAA will become the only privately run airport system in the world and a focus of anxious attention from other countries.

The Bill to privatize the BAA, due by Christmas, may also prove as controversial as denationalization of gas. It certainly raises, in a different and more malleable form, important questions over the way in which the Department of Transport has set the balance between encouraging competition and regulating monopoly.

Out of some 140 licensed airports in the country, the British Airports Authority owns only seven. Those, however, handle three quarters of all passengers and an even higher proportion of air cargo. More-

over, the BAA owns three of the four London airports. (The fourth, municipal Luton, handles some 2 million passengers on charter flights, compared with 44 million passengers at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted.)

The most controversial element in the sale plan is the decision to sell the BAA intact. This creates an effective private monopoly in London airports which is not obviously necessary industrially.

One justification for this is that the BAA needs to mobilize all its resources as an effective national competitor against ambitious continental airports. Proponents of Manchester and other leading provincial airports naturally do not agree. To them, the London monopoly gives the BAA the power to concentrate movements in the South-East and frustrate the development in other regions of airports that could become significant international centres rather than merely subsidiary airports serving their own regional catchment areas.

The Department of Transport's priority is to encourage competition between airlines rather than airports by making sure the BAA has the financial muscle to provide adequate capacity. That is a worthy aim. The result, however, is that there will continue to be a heavy burden of regulation. The summer White Paper claimed that the policy would regulate airports "only to the extent neces-

ary to safeguard the environment, meet our international obligations and support the Government's policies". That is a long list that will include restrictions on both minimum and maximum BAA charges. The White Paper adds to this by arguing that separating the London airports would make it harder to regulate licensing of services and distribution of traffic.

The department is feeling its way cautiously - almost certainly too cautiously. In doing so it has lost the opportunity provided by the abolition of the Metropolitan Counties (which control several of the most ambitious provincial airports) to create a second competing airport system based, for example, on combining Gatwick and Manchester.

This also begs the second competition question which stems from the dependence of international airports on commercial activities, and particularly the monopoly of duty free concessions. The actual business of aircraft landing and taking off makes a heavy loss. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission will shortly publish a report on the BAA's conduct of its commercial operations, which has been heavily criticized by consumer bodies and the Institute of Fiscal Studies. In the absence of internal competition, this may well fuel controversy over the Bill and lead to calls for yet more palliative regulation.

## INCENTIVES IN THE SURGERY

That it is now the policy of the Royal College of General Practitioners to lobby for a system of payment by results for family doctors is a welcome sign of the infusion of modern economic reality into one section of the medical profession. The RCGP's move is, quite laudably, aimed both at raising standards for patients and securing better remuneration for those doctors who pursue excellence. It is in striking contrast to the stance of the British Medical Association which, while repeatedly calling for higher standards, has never admitted that the existence of the bad doctor should be acknowledged by discrimination in incomes.

There are practical problems, however. To be properly effective the system must allow those who will be the arbiters of its success - the patients - better access to the medical marketplace. This means revising some of the outdated restrictions imposed by the General Medical Council on advertising. It means permitting doctors to inform potential patients of the services available to them. It means, too,

that the bureaucratic quicksand that threatens any patient who chooses to change his doctor must be cleared up, allowing patients who are dissatisfied to take their custom elsewhere quickly.

Such an improved competitive structure would go some of the way to alleviating another difficulty: how to decide who is a bad doctor and who is a good doctor, so that they can be rewarded appropriately. The emphasis in the RCGP's *Quality in General Practice* policy statement is that the college should play a key role in assessment, possibly even with its membership examination becoming a condition of entrance to general practice. Certainly this body, with its funds of expertise, would have a key role to play. But it would be as wrong to insist that prospective GPs join the college to ensure their future as it would be to insist they join the BMA, their negotiating body.

Provided that patients can be allowed facility of choice, they are the most effective and responsive agents for deciding sanction and reward. Doctors

who take the trouble to improve their service and facilities and cultivate relationships with their patients will not suffer a mass desertion of their clientele. Moreover, there are sufficient statutory bodies with patients' interests at heart - such as community health councils and family practitioner committees - to keep an eye on underperforming contractors. FPCs particularly have immense purchasing power - they hold the contracts of GPs - and it is time they started to use it. One proposal the RCGP might consider is the use of this local muscle in local bargaining and an end to the national flat-rate increases that the current archaic BMA/DHSS negotiations produce.

A voucher system, enabling members of the public to choose their GP with the greatest ease, and to use their "allocation" in either the public or with a "top-up" in the private sector, would also improve standards and competitiveness. This is an idea that the Government might canvass in its Green Paper on primary health care, now expected before Christmas.

## WHAT THE CENSOR LEFT IN

The truth of the Yurchenko affair remains concealed behind accusations in the East and speculation in the West. On Thursday *Komsomolskaya Pravda* revealed that he was imprisoned on a vast estate in Virginia, subjected to inhuman brainwashing, tortured by a mad Vietnamese, and dosed with a variety of drugs. Tass added that even in bed he could not avoid the dull gaze of a brawny thug. Under such conditions it is impossible to imagine how he escaped, unless in fact the Washington report is true. Vitaly Yurchenko simply excused himself from the dinner table of a good Georgetown restaurant, having first elicited that the CIA was not in the habit of shooting returning defectors, and left his gentlemanly companion to pay the bill.

The Kremlin is struggling with a major problem: KGB bosses wish to frighten their men abroad from defecting by threatening dire penalties, yet they wish to tempt homesick exiles to return. President Reagan was wrong about there being no word for freedom in Russian; there are two, and Russians know well what it is they have lost. Thousands wish to escape west-

wards, very few to the East. On Tuesday *Izvestiya*, devoting two full pages to President Reagan's interview with four Soviet journalists, commented that the "general opinion, also widespread in the western press, is that Moscow has seized the initiative in the political and psychological preparations for the Geneva meeting". Challenged to allow President Reagan some of the access to Soviet public opinion enjoyed by Mr Gorbachev in the West, Moscow responded by publishing, extensively from the interview on one whole page of the mass-circulation daily, while attacking his answers on the following complete page.

Soviet censors spent four days cutting under Politburo supervision, but fascinated readers could fill in the gaps by listening to western broadcasts. President Reagan was not allowed to point out that the present Kabul regime was installed and maintained by Soviet armed force, that North Vietnam seized South Vietnam in violation of the peace treaty, that Eastern Europe was denied the self-determination agreed at Yalta, or that US strategic defence research might be shared with Moscow.

But he still won the advantage because of what the censor left in.

On several occasions President Reagan corrected the well-known political commentators questioning him, showing where they had misinterpreted agreements or presented the US position falsely; such debate generally never happens in the Soviet media. Moreover, he said that the USSR started its strategic defence programme before Washington, and that "star wars" was a misleading term for SDI. US intervention in Grenada had restored democracy; it was right to criticize the USSR on human rights because Moscow too had signed the Helsinki Final Act; he would like "thousands of students to travel each year from the USA to the USSR and vice versa" to learn from each other and to make peace more secure.

This was a much more reasonable Reagan than the successor of the Nazis normally portrayed by Moscow. The interview was a welcome chink of light through the iron curtain, and should prove much more significant for the future of East-West relations than the Yurchenko affair.

visible trade balance or surplus with Japan honour will not be satisfied! But this stance, of course, naively ignores multilateral trade patterns, invisible trade and capital movements.

In marked contrast, the USA has eschewed any such quantitative demands, concentrating instead on a demand for open and free trade and the recognition of USA-Japan joint economic interests. Time after time US writers and spokesmen show themselves well aware of the size and implications of the flow of savings from Japan to the USA, which largely balances Japan's visible trade surplus.

Again, in marked contrast to the EEC, the USA has an elected President who can (and does) state

his responsibility on behalf of the whole US economy rather than sectional interests in vetoing protectionist legislation.

Thus USA-Japan differences will most likely be overcome, but there is a grave danger that the EEC's apparently British-led policy will, at considerable consumer expense, merely strengthen existing trends towards Pacific rim solidarity and European isolation.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES BOURLET,  
Faculty of  
Business and Commerce,  
Keele University,  
15-45, Mita 2-Chome,  
Minato-ku, Tokyo 108,  
Japan.  
October 31.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Long-term fight against drug abuse

From Dr Colin A. Hendrie

Sir, Whilst agreeing wholeheartedly with Dr Brewer (November 6) that alcohol is a drug of high abuse potential, one cannot agree that the effects of heroin are any less harmful.

By continuous long-term abuse of alcohol one may become addicted; heroin by contrast induces dependence within a few days.

Alcohol produces its harmful effects for society as the result of the addict's behaviour whilst under the influence of the drug. Heroin's major impact is produced by the behaviour of addicts who cannot afford to finance their habit. Prostitution, burglary, mugging and drug dealing are common forms of finding the resources for the next "fix".

None the less, whatever the differences, it is apparent for all forms of addiction that we do not have enough knowledge of the mechanisms of dependence and withdrawal and their behavioural consequences to combat the problem effectively. Policing and customs activities may contain the spread of drug abuse for a time.

However, until enough resources are made available for further research an adequate treatment which is successful for a large proportion of addicts over the long term will not be forthcoming. The continued reduction of university funding can only exacerbate the problem.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN A. HENDRIE,  
University of Bradford,  
School of Studies in Psychology,  
Bradford, West Yorkshire,  
November 6.

From Dr Helen Jago

Sir, In his letter Dr Brewer takes a welcome new look at the present drug scene.

position has been steadily undermined as a positive facet of the policy of successive governments, which have contemporaneously sought to advance nationalist aspirations.

Any consultative role for the Irish Republic in the affairs of Ulster will be perceived as a further step along the road to the "inevitability of gradualness".

It is beyond doubt that Dublin would resent a consultative role for Britain in their affairs. The position is reciprocated in Belfast. If in truth Anglo-Irish negotiations do not represent a diminution of *de facto* sovereignty I would expect any agreement to be mutually applicable throughout the entire British Isles.

Yours faithfully,  
JEREMY BURCHILL,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Stormont,  
Belfast,  
November 5.

to the Channel ports that, in terms of quality, fails to match the service that the French Railways offer on the other side; indeed, BR's own Inter-City services from London to the North show that it can offer a much better product.

A three-hour through rail service from London to Paris and Brussels could compete effectively with the airlines for the business traffic as well as for the optional travel market. It would relieve at least some of the pressure on airports and air space.

A through coach service by a road-only Channel link could do this; nor could a rail service that depended on transfers to buses for the Channel crossing.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP REDFERN,  
Northanger Cottage,  
Bookhill Hill,  
Craneleigh,  
Surrey.

The existing provision (which is one of the options) is not helped by the fact that BR offers a train service

Black economy

From Mr S. A. Grover

Sir, There has been considerable discussion in your paper and other media on the true unemployment figures and their relationship with the black economy.

Quite a lot of the work of the black economy appears to be offering various building services to owners of domestic houses; to the owner a cash payment reduces the amount from that of a billed invoice.

The reintroduction of Schedule A tax or something similar might knock a lot of the black economy as a stroke. Under Schedule A tax receipts invoices for repairs and maintenance could be set against the tax for current and future years, repayments being made for excess expenditure over the tax due.

Whether, of course, the Inland Revenue would argue that the cost of administering the tax outweighs the tax allowance is not for me to answer. But it might bring a number of "businesses" into income tax and national insurance payments.

Yours faithfully,  
S. A. GROVER,  
44 Montebello Road,  
New Eltham, SE9.

The poverty lobby

From Mr E. Turnbull

Sir, Your somewhat pejorative reference to the "poverty lobby" (editorial, November 2) prompts me to remember that the "poverty lobby" of the past included such distinguished figures as Charles Dickens and the great Earl of Shaftesbury. I am entirely certain that we need exactly such a powerful

and dedicated lobby today, since, like its sister scourges, disease and death, poverty does not disappear but merely changes its forms and manifestations.

As merely one of many examples of this it is very disquieting that even human advancement itself leads to new types of poverty. Increased ownership, for instance, can lead both to dearer and fewer public transport facilities and to the concentration of amenities in the larger centres only. This inevitably creates an impoverished life and opportunity for a growing minority of individuals who, far from being a well-organised "lobby", are only too often forgotten and isolated.

Yours faithfully,  
E. TURNBULL,  
"Taman",  
38 Elsdon Road,  
Gosforth, Northumberland.

### Ptarmigan that missed the boat

From Mr Alistair Horne

Sir, The loss of the Plessey Ptarmigan contract (report, November 6; leading article, November 7) is clearly a grievous blow for the British defence industry. But is it fair, or even sensible, for us to protest, invoking that elusive amulet, the "special relationship"?

As a young foreign correspondent I covered the endeavours many years ago to equip West Germany's infant Luftwaffe with British aircraft, notably the Comet. When the Comet had been redesigned, following the disastrous fates of two Comets, de Havilland invited the leading German experts to Hatfield to fly on the new prototype Comet III. I was included in the party, as part of the PR exercise to help boost a great plane.

De Havillands were lavish in their hospitality: wine (tactfully, hock) flowed. We then all flew down to the Bristol Channel and back a superb flight, but immediately depressurisation combined with the hock and the German dignitaries all trooped to the rear of the aircraft. Alas, the hosts had omitted one detail: the Comet prototype had no loo.

When the plane landed back at Hatfield, instead of radiating enthusiasm for the Comet, a desperate team of Germans fled past the reception committee cross-legged across the tarmac. A short time later Luftwaffe announced that they were going to buy Boeing. De Havilland, and Britain, lost that vast contract forever.

In relating this sad tale of poor salesmanship I am in no way suggesting that Plessey may have been as inept as de Havillands were - and as all too many other British exporters have been since - but the difference between \$4.3 billion and \$7.4 billion (a huge sum even by American standards) must suggest something. Which bid would the MoD, acting on behalf of the British taxpayer, have accepted?

As a member of the Franco-British Council I recently attended in Lyons useful discussions between French and British defence experts, held in the most friendly atmosphere. It is also evident from conversations in Washington that there will be further arms contracts to European firms or offer which the US cannot undertake competitively herself and which will probably be so big as to exceed what any single national industry in Europe could undertake.

Why, then, instead of complaining about French sales expertise and invoking the "special relationship", do we not concentrate our energies more into trying to combine forces with our French friends and allies?

Yours etc.  
ALISTAIR HORNE,  
21 St Petersburg Square, W2,  
November 7.

Spreading apple tree

From Sir Guy Fison

Sir, Picking up a thread from your interesting article, "English apples bite back" (November 1), I recently came across an example of how our fruit growers have spread their largesse around the world.

When buying some Sturmers at my local greengrocer I asked him where they came from with that slightly foreign-sounding name. He told me Tasmania and when I later asked a friend from Tasmania if Sturmers were well-known there she replied that they were one of Tasmania's best and good export business.

Soon after I was turning the pages of *The Botanic Garden* by a Mr B. Maund writing in 1825 and found an entry - "Sturmer Pippin" - incidentally the only name among the apples mentioned that I had heard of. It appears that a grower called Dillistone, who lived at Sturmer on the Essex side of the border with Suffolk about 1800 and - and I quote - "observing a fine apple of the Ribstone Pippin hanging on a branch among those of an old Newtown", he gathered the fruit, planted its seeds and one tree from them grew to perfection".

No doubt it found its way out to Tasmania with early settlers, but there my knowledge comes to a stop. Just a bit of useless information, I fear, but it certainly makes shopping and eating more interesting.

Yours faithfully,  
GUY FISON,  
Wingate,  
Long St Leon,  
Basingstoke,  
Hampshire,  
November 2.

University blacklist

From Professor Conrad Russell

Sir, The withdrawal of funds for postgraduate research from universities whose completion rate does not satisfy the authorities (report, November 2) rests on a misapprehension. This misapprehension, as it happens, is embodied in the statistics you quote in your today's edition. The "completion rates" you quote are completion rates after four years.

I can best illustrate the significance of the limitation among PhDs I have myself supervised. Their completion rate is 65 per cent, a figure not beyond the reach of improvement, but not, apparently, a matter for alarm. Their completion rate after four years, on the other hand, is nil. I do not believe I am the only supervisor who could report such figures.

In trying to introduce an innovative restriction on the length of time a PhD thesis takes the ESRC (Economic and Social Research Council) is not merely attempting an exercise in accountability or efficiency; it is attempting to impose a PhD of a shorter, and therefore different, type from that normally

## ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 9 1917

Nicholas II abdicated in March 1917 ("On this Day" March 20). The following month Lenin arrived from Switzerland. The revolution is known as the "October Revolution" the date being that of the old Russian calendar. It was celebrated in accordance with the Western calendar.

## COUP D'ETAT IN PETROGRAD.

### LENIN DEPOSES KERENSKY.

The Extreme wing of the Petrograd Soviet, under the leadership of the pacifist agitator Lenin, announces that it has deposed the Provisional Government of Kerensky, and that it has assumed power "until the creation of a Government of Soviets", whose function will be to offer "an immediate democratic peace" and to promote "an honest convocation of the Constituent Assembly".

According to the announcement, the coup d'Etat, which was the work of the Petrograd garrison and proletariat, was accomplished "without bloodshed".

M. Kerensky is said to have taken flight, and an order for his arrest has been issued. Several of his colleagues, including the Foreign Minister, M. Tereshchenko, have already been arrested.

The text of the Extremist document was as follows:-

To the Army Committees of the Active Army, and to all the Soviets of the Southern Deliberative.

The Provisional Government of Kerensky, which rose against the Revolution and the people. The changes which resulted in the deposition of the Provisional Government were accomplished without bloodshed.

The Petrograd Soviet of the Workers' and Soldiers' Deputies solemnly welcomes the accomplished change and proclaims the authority of the Military Revolutionary Committee until the creation of a Government of Soviets.

In announcing this to the Army at the front the Revolutionary Committee calls upon the revolutionary soldiers to watch closely the conduct of the men in command. Officers who do not join the accomplished revolution immediately and openly must be arrested at once as enemies.

The Petrograd Soviet considers as the programme of the authority:-

1. The offer of an immediate democratic peace.

2. An immediate handing over of the large proprietorial lands to the peasants.

3. The transmission of all authority to the Soviets.

An honest convocation of the Constituent Assembly.

The National Revolutionary Army must not permit uncertain military detachments to leave the front for Petrograd.

Use persuasion, but where this fails oppose any such action on the part of these detachments by force without mercy.

The actual Order must be read immediately to all military detachments of all arms. The concealment of this Order from the rank and file by the Army organizations is equivalent to a great crime against the Revolution, and will be punished by all the strength of the Revolutionary law.

Soldiers! For Peace, for Bread, for Land, for the Power of the People!

(Signed) THE MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

Arthur James Balfour (1848-1930) was Foreign Secretary 1916-18. The Balfour Declaration, a historic statement which became subject to so much criticism and interpretation.

## PALESTINE FOR THE JEWS

### OFFICIAL SYMPATHY

Mr. Balfour has sent the following letter to Lord Rothschild in regard to the establishment of a national home in Palestine for the Jewish people:-

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to and approved by the Cabinet:-

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

known at present. It is, in fact, attempting to lower the academic standard of the PhD and this attempt should be regarded as ultra vires.

Yours faithfully,  
CONRAD RUSSELL,  
43 Streteley Road, NW6,  
November 2.

## Conquering hero

From Captain David Benest and Captain S. W. Crawford

Sir C. M. McPhee (November 2) and others may be interested to hear that conker fights remain a valued extracurricular activity at The Royal Military College of Science, if nowhere else.

Indeed, the Army Staff Course Mixed Championship was held only two weeks ago and won by Captain S. W. Crawford, RTR, who smashed his way to victory in an exciting final against Mrs Sue Cooke.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BENEST,  
S. W. CRAWFORD,  
Royal Military College of Science,  
Shrivenham,  
Wiltshire,  
November 4.











Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

## TRAVEL

## Sliding along on top of the world

Why not get away from the crowded slopes and go ski touring instead? Thomson Prentice found it an exhilarating challenge

We were an unlikely bunch of pioneers, stepping into the wilderness: a middle-aged Glasgow lawyer and his wife; a snow-haired Norfolk farmer; a synaesthete going grey; and his doctor friend; a sturdy Edinburgh printer; and I, a desk-bound 37-year-old.

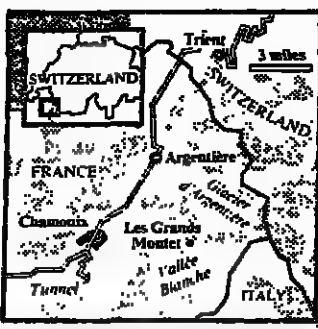
We had been drawn together by our mutual infatuation with the Alps, a passion fanned by a growing frustration at being confined too long on pistes too crowded, too cultivated.

We wanted to escape those safe boundaries, but we needed to be shown the way. Fortunately, we were in expert hands. Ski an Do, the Scottish firm, had recognized the yearning of people like us, and was introducing a week of off-piste skiing and ski touring. We were its first customers.

Now we were huddled apprehensively together 6,000ft up a misty mountainside, above Argentière, near Chamonix, waiting for a storm to clear.

On our backs were rucksacks packed with such reassuring novelties as avalanche shovels, ice axes, ropes, harnesses, bandages and morphine; on our feet, skis with modified bindings to help us walk more easily, and soles with removable adhesive skins to grip the snow; in our stomachs, butterflies with frostbite.

This was day four. During the first two days our group leader, Peter Cliff, a veteran Alpine guide, taught us patiently to ski off-piste, until we all gained confidence in deep, virgin snow. We played hide and seek with



TRAVEL NOTES

Ski an Do will hold a slightly altered version of this course on April 5-12. The price of £400 includes flights, all equipment and full board. (Ski an Do Holidays, 14 Stafford Street, Edinburgh EH3 7AU) (031 226 6626).

battery-powered bleepers that would help us find each other if buried by avalanche. They worked.

We learnt how to climb on skis on day three, grunting and panting our way up and over two cols 4,000ft above Chamonix, and skidding down the silent, empty valley hidden behind them. It was exhausting, and exhilarating.

That was the rehearsal. Today we were standing at the bottom of a long piste running down Les Grands Montets, above Argentière. We were going all the way up, on skis. And when we got to the top, we would keep going, into the mountains behind. Until the day after tomorrow.

Our plan was to gain some 2,500ft in height on a three-and-a-half mile trek across the huge Argentière glacier. We would spend the night in the isolated mountain hut there which is the first stop on the Haute Route, the unmarked ski touring trail that creeps some 72 miles across the roof of the Alps to Saas Fee in Switzerland.

The clouds lifted and we set off, leaving the ski resort behind. An hour or so later we were the only intruders in a wild kingdom ruled by wind and snow. In single file we developed a long, loping rhythm, and, heads bent to those warlords, made our way across the glacier.

Visibility was smothered down to less than 50 yards, and we began to struggle. Peter Cliff and a climbing friend who had come along roped themselves together at the head of the line, and navigated our course with compasses and altimeters.

The rope was in case Cliff stepped into a crevasse. We had seen many of those earlier, but we couldn't see them, or much else, now. Words of mutual encouragement passed up and down the line, and we kept going.

We made it, of course, tired but exuberant. Inside the hut - a large, bare chalet perched on a ledge of rock - we ate soup by torchlight. We put on extra clothes against the awful cold and crawled on to bunks to listen to the wind shouting and battering at us through the darkness. We sang old songs and we slept.



From Argentière's solitary white wilderness to convivial company: long-distance skiing offers many choices

The following morning was beautiful, sunny and still. The outlook was beyond the scope of any picture postcard. We started eager and early towards Trient, the next hut along the Haute Route, most of the day away. There were two tough cols to surmount, but we were a team now, ready for anything.

But before noon, half-way up the first col, we halted. Worried about avalanche risks under a blazing sun, Peter Cliff turned us back.

Leaning into that 35-degree slope, gazing up at the white edge of the ridge against the sky, my

first reaction was relief. But I looked at farmer John and printer Ron and the truth was in their eyes and mine. We wanted more and our last chance was gone.

We skied down through soft, deep snow like birds through morning mist. Every moment was joyful. We had learnt a lot, not least about ourselves. We eventually rejoined the old world, where holidaymakers queued at chairlifts munching hot dogs.

On our last day, we skied all 13 miles off-piste of the Vallée Blanche, above Chamonix. It was easy.



## Downhill daredevils - a race apart

You'll see more of the Hahnenkamm races on TV but as Richard Williams found, there's nothing to beat the atmosphere and excitement of the piste

back into a tuck for the final switchback schuss.

The multilingual public address commentary was a help in preparing for the appearance of stars. Sadly, the great Klammer crashed pathetically out of the race when his binding pre-released within a few metres of the start. But there were Zurbriggen, Heinzer, Hoefflechner and the rest, all adding a dimension to image presented by *Ski Sunday*. The fastest start first but since we were prepared to wait an hour or so, there was even the Union Jack helmet of Britain's representative, Graham Bell. Do not laugh: anyone who gets down that hill, particularly in the sort of icy conditions that prevailed during the 1985 race, is a brave man.

Just as Freddie Spencer sells Hondas and John McEnroe is a marketing man for Nike, so ski racing enjoys an intimate relationship with commerce. Despite the amount of money involved, a World Cup race retains a surprisingly informal air, the competitors wandering among the crowd at the foot of the mountain. There are no

inflated charges, and no one tries to sell besiged sweat-shirts or strawberries and cream at exorbitant prices.

Kitzbühel in Hahnenkamm week is an invigorating place, although the arrival of the skiers and their teams of sponsors and technicians makes it hard to find an hotel room. Inside the walls of the ancient and historic town, flags and banners illuminate the partly pedestrianized precinct.

The windows of the many boutiques (everything from Azzeidpe Alais's expensively leather jackets down) glow with a special brightness, aware that the season's big money is out for a pre-dinner stroll. At Praxmair's cafe, conversation over the heavenly raspberry cake takes on a livelier buzz as print-outs of the practice times are studied.

Remember, of course, that ski races can be the victims of unsuitable conditions - but then so can cricket matches, tennis tournaments and motor races. It is worth the risk. Watching the downhillers on the Streif, I was as glad to be there as I had been in Sicily in 1973, on a visit to witness the final edition of the Targa Florio, the unique round-the-mountains motor race.

Recreational skiing seems barely hampered during the racing days, although the main

cable car to the top of the Hahnenkamm itself is sometimes best avoided. Habituals will welcome the new gondola from Klausen, half-way along the road to Kirchberg, up to Ehrenbachhöhe, while the long, gentle runs from the top of the Kitzbühler Horn, provide a splendid conclusion to a golden day for those of endless aspirations but limited technique.

As is increasingly the fashion, there is also now a contrivance called the Ski-Safari, beginning at Kirchberg and taking in 35km of skiing before concluding up the valley at Pass-Thurn. Unfortunately its middle section, a quite outstandingly tedious flat trail followed by a short bus ride, ruins the effect. Unlike, say, the Dolomites Sella Ronda run, Kitzbühel's Ski-Safari gives no impression of being a natural product of the topography. Better by far to take the bus straight to Pass Thurn, where the most varied skiing of all is to be found.

In a world of purpose-built facilities, Kitzbühel is a cherished antique, repaying a little extra trouble. The Hotel Tiefenbrunner, right in the middle of the town, offers luxury and fine food without making the guest feel smothered or bloated. If you need a reason for going, the 1986 Hahnenkamm races take place from January 16 to 19. And do not worry: they will not even let you think about trying out the sacred course for yourself.



## TRAVEL NOTES

Thomas Cook offer holidays at five Kitzbühel hotels. A week at the Tiefenbrunner, half-board, begins at £207 for one week in the low season and runs up to £483 in a fortnight in mid-February. The fortnight including the Hahnenkamm races (January 11-25) is £349. Kitzbühel's 59-lift ski pass costs between £29 and £49 for six days. Six days' ski school cost £24.



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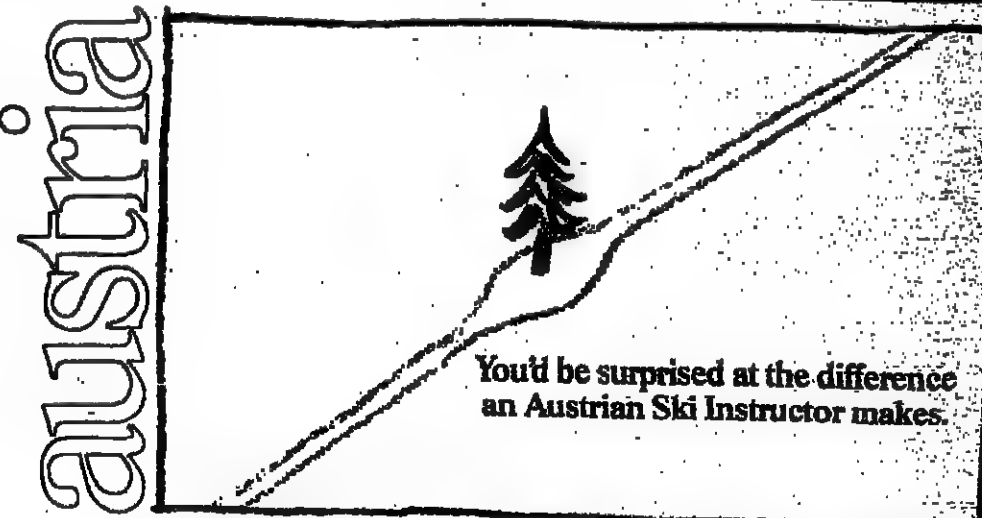
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مكتبة الأصيل



## TRAVEL

# Hit or miss, but that's snow business

Weather forecasting in the Alps can be unpredictable for those planning a winter holiday, as W. J. Burroughs reports

Last winter was particularly disappointing for skiers in much of the Alps. A dry November and December led to negligible snow at Christmas in many resorts below 8,000ft. Thereafter erratic snowfall, punctuated with periods of intense cold, made January and February a lottery. March was better, but warm weather at Easter spoilt much of the late season snow.

Such unpredictability is a timely reminder of the risks associated with getting good snow in even the most reliable resorts. Last winter the snow was better on the Mediterranean side of the Alps, in resorts which are not regarded as being such safe bets. So how can holidaymakers improve their chances of finding good skiing in their allotted two weeks?

Even though we are told that the Alpine marmots are burrowing deep in the Tyrol heralding cold, snowy weather, there is no sure way of predicting whether the snow this winter will be good or bad. But allowing for considerable differences across the Alps and from resort to resort, broad statistics can provide useful guidance.

For many years the Swiss have kept comprehensive measurements of the snow-pack in the Alps, as they depend heavily on hydro-electric power. Figures for the Engadine region at about 5,000ft (which includes such resorts as St. Moritz, Davos and Arosa) are typical for the country and representative of the rest of the northern side of the Alps. These figures show that the amount of snow can vary enormously between good and bad years.

Snow cover may start from late October to late December and can last until anywhere between late March and late May. On average the snow depth at the end of December is less than half the mid-winter peak figure, and maximum depth may be at any time from mid-December to mid-April. Apart from emphasising the uncertainty of snowfall, the figures confirm the traditional view that the best skiing is to be

had between late January and early March. Going earlier or later is more of a gamble; Christmas skiing is not only risky but certain to feature short days and feeble sunshine which will not produce much of a sun-tan even when the skies are clear.

Statistics confirm that at higher altitudes the snowfall is greater and longer. So, allowing for variations from year to year, choosing a resort with a considerable range of skiing above about 7,000ft at the western end of the Alps, and 6,000ft in the east, will greatly enhance the chances of finding good snow.

Skiers who book later on in the year may take advantage of measurements of snow earlier in the season. If no appreciable snow has fallen by the beginning of December, then threadbare pistes are likely over the busy Christmas period, as there will not have been a sufficient depth to absorb the punishment of peak use.

Once a decent base has built up, the chances of finding reasonable conditions are much higher. You still face the vagaries of the weather, with fluctuations in temperature and precipitation transforming beautiful snow into unattractive mush or ice, but at least there will be something to ski on.

Be careful about using reports of snow conditions published in the papers. Those prepared by the representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain have a good reputation, but figures prepared by local tourist offices tend to reflect vested interests and can flatter to deceive.

If you are making a last minute booking, try to get some reliable information on the snowfall from your travel agent or the tour operator. It would be even better to make direct contact with the resort. Last winter a friend of mine telephoned the chalet she planned to visit. On discovering that those not wishing to wreck their own ski on the rock-strewn lower slopes were having to queue for 45 minutes to take the lift down the mountain, she decided not to go.

Be weather-wise: the higher you go, the more chance of snow

## Bargain offers across the Atlantic

The well-publicised fare battle to Britain between the Thomson group and Intasun, offering a week in Spain for £25, seems small fry compared with a 2,500-mile flight between New York and San Francisco for a mere £22.

TWA started the battle with its US Rover fares. It was quickly followed by Pan Am, Northwest Orient and Atlantic-based Delta Airlines. These Rover tickets allow US visitors to buy a minimum of four flight coupons for £28, with the option of extra coupons at £22 each (£25 each for Delta) up to a maximum of eight. Each fare coupon allows you to take any flight anywhere inside mainland USA.

Other than having to pay for changing your itinerary there

are few restrictions. Generally speaking, you must fly transatlantic on a scheduled service and book the first domestic flight 14 days (seven days for Northwest) ahead. Travel can start any time before March 21 but all domestic sectors must be flown by May 20, 1986.

Because of the booking restrictions, these so-called winter Airpass deals are best bought in conjunction with an APEX (Advance Passenger Excursion) fare. Then, not only can you tour the USA at a bargain price, but you can also escape the "frostbite" for, say, Florida or the West Coast for minimal extra cost.

Which of the four US carriers

offers the best buy? Both TWA and Pan Am have speedy non-stop coast-to-coast flights: Delta and Northwest have comprehensive networks but you often have to change flights when travelling a long distance; this means you will then use two flight coupons. Pan Am's domestic network is patchy in contrast to that of TWA but allows you to make side-trips: for example, LA to Honolulu for £150, or Miami to Mexico or the Caribbean for £75.

But perhaps you only need to visit one destination? Besides the well-known APEX fares (book 21 days ahead, stay away at least seven days) the latest promotional rate for short stays is the Weekender excursion. This must be booked 14 days ahead with outward travel on Sunday/Monday of the same weekend. Weekender is valid for travel until December 6 then again from January 9 until March 14. Examples: flying

TWA to New York/Boston costs £279, while Los Angeles is £329; BCal charges £299 for New York/Houston/Atlanta. British Airways is not offering a Weekender fare. Its riposte to the US airlines (although the latter may well match BA's deal) is Latesaver - book within three days of travel and stay away at least one complete weekend. It's a perfect ticket for impulse travellers. Sample prices: New York £299; LA/San Francisco/Seattle £399.

On the Gatwick/New York (Newark) run, Virgin Atlantic's normal unrestricted rate is £149 with a reduction to £129 if you book within 24 hours of departure. All are one-way fares and Virgin has introduced a £99 stand-by rate, too. People Express's dollar-based fare is a simple \$199 (£131) each way.

Alex McWhirter

The author is Travel Editor of Business Traveller.

## هكذا من السفر



## A New Year price rise?

### TRAVEL NEWS

There are growing signs that holiday prices for next summer could be increased in the New Year, reversing the trend of the current cut-throat battle between the major operators.

Cosmos, which launched its summer programme this week, says its prices will be valid only until December 31, when a revised brochure will be published. Intasun, the second largest operator, has taken a similar line and has admitted that it expects to increase prices in its main summer programme.

**Supersonic flight**  
A British Airways Concorde will make its first flight from the UK to New Zealand on April 5, to give passengers a two-hour grandstand view of Halley's Comet from a height of 59,000ft between Colombo and Perth. The aircraft has been chartered by Cox & Kings, the world's longest-established travel company, which was set up in 1758, the year that the comet acquired its name. The 14-night package costs £9,200. Information from Cox & Kings on 01-439 3380.

**Ten guinea holidays**  
Holidays in Switzerland at 1939 prices are being offered by the Travel Club of Upminster to mark its 50th anniversary. Any of the club's customers who stayed at the Hotel Waldheim in Sarnen in 1939 or earlier qualify for a two-week 1986 holiday at the same hotel for only 10 guineas (£10.50), which compares with a normal high-season rate of £388.

Philip Ray

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## London-Gatwick to Innsbruck DAN-AIR's NEW SHORT CUT TO THE TIROL

On December 15th, Dan-Air is launching a new route to Innsbruck, in the heart of the Austrian Tyrol, cutting your journey time by 2 hours or more. Flights will operate initially on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays featuring the new BAe 146 jetliner. Dan-Air have attractive fares starting at £105 return Apex, plus their usual friendly service. Start packing your bags now, after all, the Christmas and the Skiing seasons are just around the corner. Call your travel agent or Dan-Air on 01-680 1011 for full details.

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## SHOPPING



## DRINK



## Gifts in the best possible taste

The British still drink more wine during the run-up to Christmas than the rest of the year, which means that most of the names on your Christmas present list are bound to welcome wine as a gift.

However, if you want to let the wine trade do the work of delivering the bottles safely and in good time for the big day, you must start choosing now because most merchants will guarantee pre-Christmas delivery only if orders are received by the end of this month.

Berry Bros & Rudd is a good place to start and, unless you want to stand in the queue for half an hour as I did last year watching what appeared to be the entire staff, including the directors, deal with the Christmas crush, then I suggest you send off for their Twelve Packs of Christmas offer at once. Perhaps the most useful pack is "Green Park", which contains two half-bottles of six different white and red wines, including their stylish, musky Sémillon Sec from Bordeaux, Berry's tobacco-nosed Good Ordinary Claret and the luscious, peachy '82 Clos Saint-Georges. And all for £18.75, including free delivery to any mainland UK address. Berry Bros have also joined forces this year with London's famous cheese-mongers, Paxton & Whitfield, to offer a 10oz pottery jar of Berry's 1975 vintage port for £26.75. Write to Berry Bros & Rudd, 3 St James's Street, London SW1 for further details.

Yapp Brothers, run by Robin Yapp, an amiable ex-dentist and now full-time wine merchant, has always sold excellent and unusual Christmas cases - at discounted prices. My favourite of the range is still their Party Fizz Kit containing 10 bottles of the elegant, fine

Jane MacQuitty

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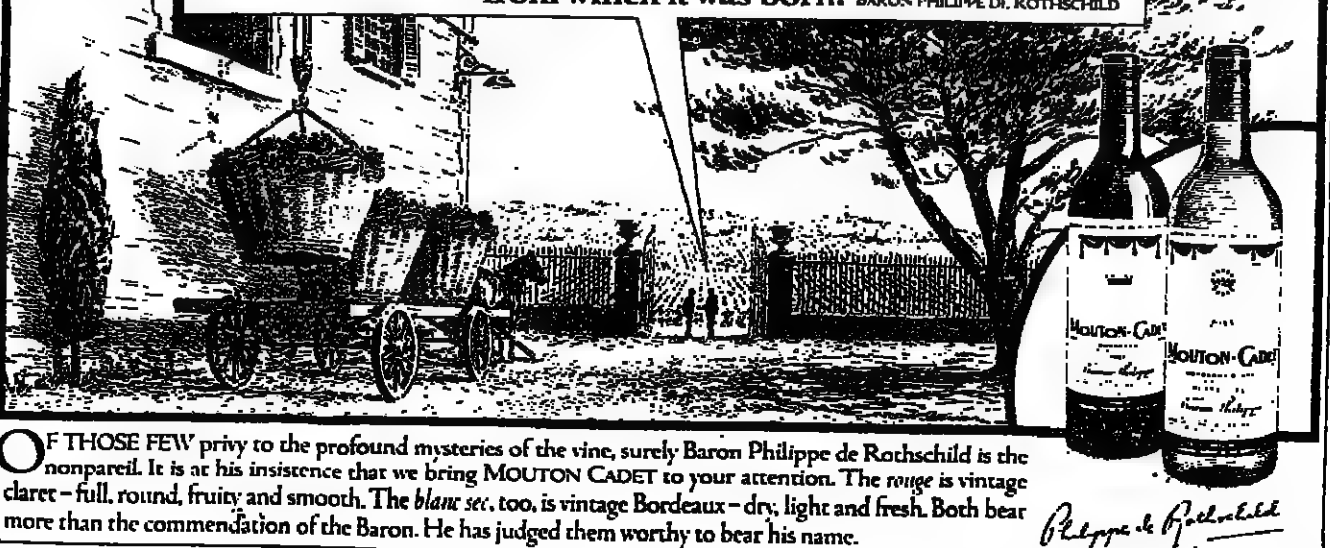
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COLLECTING  
Grand old pen friends

The Yuppie generation obviously does not remember the days when the ink monitors at school went around with permanently blue-black fingers, or there would hardly be a vogue among them today for "vintage" 1930s fountain-pens such as Waterman, Swan, Parker and Conway Stewart.

It was Paul Smith, outfitter *sans pareil* to the Yuppie male, who first began to sell old fountain-pens. He now has about 50 in stock from £30 to £55, completely renovated, as well as old lighters, watches, wallets and cufflinks. His own favourite is a Waterman but he admits to generally using a ball-point himself.

The Waterman Ideal Pen, was of vulcanized rubber decorated with wood and filled from an eye-dropper. Many ingenious inventions and ideas followed including, in 1905, the clip on the cap to hold the pen in place in a jacket pocket. Even in 1954, one American manufacturer is said to have received an order from India for 20,000 pen tops - the actual pens were superfluous!

Waterman also produced the rotund Teddy pen which held half a bottle of ink and was designed especially for news reporters, while around the same time, George S. Parker from Janesville, Wisconsin, invented a "safety" pen that



Noteworthy: A selection of Conway Stewart and Ornum pens from the 1930s and 1940s at prices between £35 and £65, from Green and Stone, London

would not leak. Other innovations included a small window added to the side of the barrel in 1913 to show the level of ink, and in 1921 the side lever for "self-filling". The era of true style was the

1930s, when coloured caps were enhanced with silver or gold bands while some customers even added diamonds. The gold nib, proof against corrosion and, when well-rolled, flexible, was mixed with irid-

ium to give durability.

In 1930 Waterman introduced the first coloured plastic pen, with veined or variegated patterns in a new, streamlined shape called the Patrician.

It is recorded that in 1919, Lloyd George signed the Versailles Peace Treaty with a solid gold Waterman. In 1936 Edward VIII used a Waterman Ideal to sign the Instrument of Abdication; this pen set a record price when it sold for £2,000 at auction in 1979.

Isabelle Anscombe

## IN THE GARDEN

## A hedge against the frost and snow

A living hedge can fulfil a number of useful functions in the garden, from providing privacy to acting as a windbreak and adding colour or form to flowerbeds. Now is the time to carry out preparations for planting although work can be done at any time during the dormant season.

Dig a trench at least two spits deep and about three feet wide, adding well-rotted farmyard manure, peat or compost to the bottom spit. Do not skimp on this preparation or the hedge will suffer for many years to come. Add treated bonemeal at 5oz to the square yard to the soil's surface and rake it in lightly.

Planting can be done at any time during the winter months when the ground is not covered by frost or snow. Bare-rooted or container-grown varieties are

equally suitable as long as they have firm, strong shoots.

The choice of plant for a hedge is enormous. You must decide at an early stage whether you want a formal or an informal hedge as the plant selected will rarely do both. Conifers make good hedges, and the best include *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* and the common *Cupressus leylandii*.

Flowering hedges have so much to give if planted in the right place. *Berberis x stenophylla* is a great favourite, its long sprays of yellow flowers making a splash in the spring. Escallonia, either pink or red, are good both inland and near the coast. Fuchsias are good for low hedges, their colour through the summer being their main attraction, as are hydrangeas.

Try plants not usually associated with hedges, such as camellias, Ribes and hypericums are low-growing plants ideal for the small area while *Rhododendron ponticum*, or any of the hybrids, will give six-foot hedges and colour in early summer.

Ashley Stephenson

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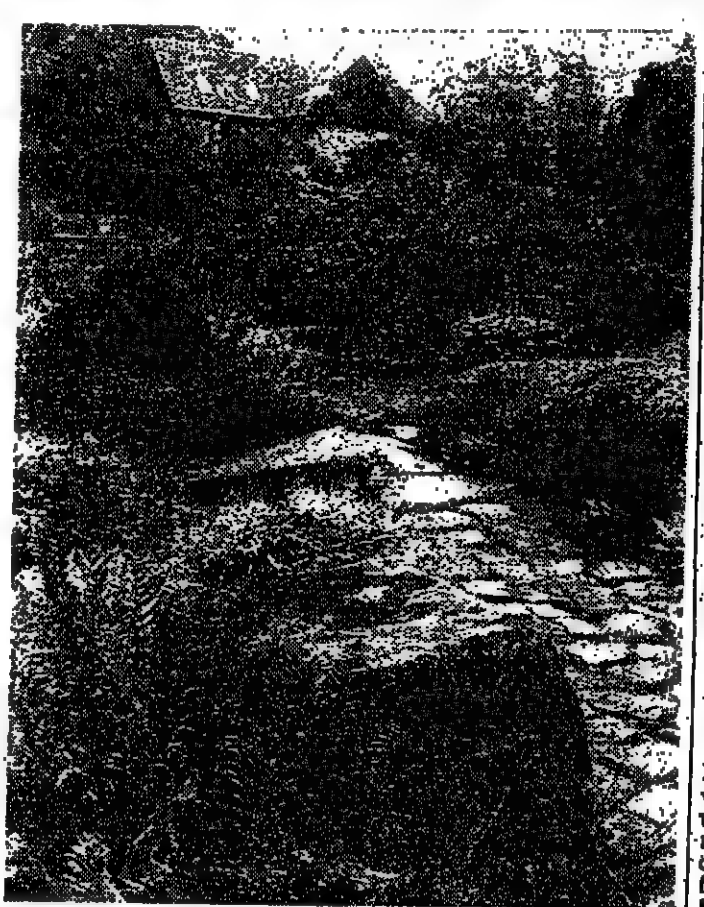
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100 information-packed pages, including 2800 colour photos highlighting over 100 plants to ensure fragrance in the garden and home throughout the year. Packed with recipes, planning and advice on herbs and trees. Descriptions and prices of some 2,000 trees, shrubs, clematis, roses, roses, trees, hardy perennials. FREE by post 13p stamps towards postage appreciated. Hillier Nurseries (Winchester) Ltd. Dept. T, Amfield House, Amfield, Hants SO5 0PA



More than just trees contribute to the autumn colour at Harlow Car, the garden of the Northern Horticultural Society. It occupies a valley dissected by a sulphurous stream which hugs the valley floor between the two slopes.

On one side are trial grounds and rock gardens with their cream and mauve heathers and dwarf conifers forming a backdrop for purple acer. On the other, the remnants of the Forest of Knarsborough tumbling over the slope in billowing masses. The trees have a powerful presence from which there seems to be no escape. Their trinity of birch and oak and conifer continually beckon the visitor.

Here in the autumn the

GARDENS TO VISIT

bracken, becoming ever more crisp as the days shorten, rises in amber clouds. Thickets of rhododendrons add dark green accents among the silver birch. The soft, shifting light has a quality all of its own.

Among the oaks the light is more solemn, more dense, creating a fitting arena in which to display the remnants of a pseudo-classical portico. This was once the entrance to the Cheltenham Spa Rooms and was brought here as a picturesque feature in 1939.

Michael Young

Harlow Car Gardens, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Open daily, 9am to sunset

## CHESS

## The waiting game that lasted 13 years

Raymond Keene continues

the series on former

world champions with a

look at Boris Spassky

Boris Spassky started life as a good Soviet citizen, but now lives in France and represents that country in the chess Olympics.

His debut in the World Championship cycle came at the Candidates' tournament of Amsterdam 1956 when Spassky was just 19, but he had to wait a decade for his title challenge.

His first attempt on Petrosian's throne in 1966 was repulsed by the score 12½-11½ but, nothing daunted, he cut his way through the ranks of Geller, Larsen and Korchnoi to challenge Petrosian again in 1969. For this renewed challenge Spassky started firm favourite since the Armenian world champion's results had been far from impressive during his second three-year spell as champion.

At first, Petrosian resisted well and until game 17 the scores were balanced. Unfortunately for him, all his defences against 1 P-K4 collapsed simultaneously at that point and he lost on the Black side of two Sicilians and a Ruy Lopez in short succession. The final result was 10½-12½ to Spassky.

The game which follows depicts the mid-point of Petrosian's crisis in fending off Spassky's attacks with 1 P-K4.

White: Spassky; Black: Petrosian; Game 19, World Championship, Moscow, 1969. Sicilian defence (Najdorf variation).

1 P-K4 P-K4 2 N-K3 P-K3 3 P-Q4 P-Q4 4 P-Q4 P-Q4 5 P-Q4 P-Q4 6 P-Q4 P-Q4 7 P-Q4 P-Q4 8 P-Q4 P-Q4 9 P-Q4 P-Q4 10 P-Q4 P-Q4 11 P-Q4 P-Q4 12 P-Q4 P-Q4 13 P-Q4 P-Q4 14 P-Q4 P-Q4 15 P-Q4 P-Q4 16 P-Q4 P-Q4 17 P-Q4 P-Q4 18 P-Q4 P-Q4 19 P-Q4 P-Q4 20 P-Q4 P-Q4 21 P-Q4 P-Q4 22 P-Q4 P-Q4 23 P-Q4 P-Q4 24 P-Q4 P-Q4 25 P-Q4 P-Q4 26 P-Q4 P-Q4 27 P-Q4 P-Q4 28 P-Q4 P-Q4 29 P-Q4 P-Q4 30 P-Q4 P-Q4 31 P-Q4 P-Q4 32 P-Q4 P-Q4 33 P-Q4 P-Q4 34 P-Q4 P-Q4 35 P-Q4 P-Q4 36 P-Q4 P-Q4 37 P-Q4 P-Q4 38 P-Q4 P-Q4 39 P-Q4 P-Q4 40 P-Q4 P-Q4 41 P-Q4 P-Q4 42 P-Q4 P-Q4 43 P-Q4 P-Q4 44 P-Q4 P-Q4 45 P-Q4 P-Q4 46 P-Q4 P-Q4 47 P-Q4 P-Q4 48 P-Q4 P-Q4 49 P-Q4 P-Q4 50 P-Q4 P-Q4 51 P-Q4 P-Q4 52 P-Q4 P-Q4 53 P-Q4 P-Q4 54 P-Q4 P-Q4 55 P-Q4 P-Q4 56 P-Q4 P-Q4 57 P-Q4 P-Q4 58 P-Q4 P-Q4 59 P-Q4 P-Q4 60 P-Q4 P-Q4 61 P-Q4 P-Q4 62 P-Q4 P-Q4 63 P-Q4 P-Q4 64 P-Q4 P-Q4 65 P-Q4 P-Q4 66 P-Q4 P-Q4 67 P-Q4 P-Q4 68 P-Q4 P-Q4 69 P-Q4 P-Q4 70 P-Q4 P-Q4 71 P-Q4 P-Q4 72 P-Q4 P-Q4 73 P-Q4 P-Q4 74 P-Q4 P-Q4 75 P-Q4 P-Q4 76 P-Q4 P-Q4 77 P-Q4 P-Q4 78 P-Q4 P-Q4 79 P-Q4 P-Q4 80 P-Q4 P-Q4 81 P-Q4 P-Q4 82 P-Q4 P-Q4 83 P-Q4 P-Q4 84 P-Q4 P-Q4 85 P-Q4 P-Q4 86 P-Q4 P-Q4 87 P-Q4 P-Q4 88 P-Q4 P-Q4 89 P-Q4 P-Q4 90 P-Q4 P-Q4 91 P-Q4 P-Q4 92 P-Q4 P-Q4 93 P-Q4 P-Q4 94 P-Q4 P-Q4 95 P-Q4 P-Q4 96 P-Q4 P-Q4 97 P-Q4 P-Q4 98 P-Q4 P-Q4 99 P-Q4 P-Q4 100 P-Q4 P-Q4

Abandoning his habitual caution, Petrosian has chosen one of the sharpest Sicilian lines.

Sacrificing a pawn to inaugurate a dashing attack against Black's King.

If Black were to play 22... P-N then 23 N-K4 P-KN4 24 Q-R3 25 K-R2 26 R-N2 27 R-N3 28 R-N4 29 R-N5 30 R-N6 31 R-N7 32 R-N8 33 R-N9 34 R-N10 35 R-N11 36 R-N12 37 R-N13 38 R-N14 39 R-N15 40 R-N16 41 R-N17 42 R-N18 43 R-N19 44 R-N20 45 R-N21 46 R-N22 47 R-N23 48 R-N24 49 R-N25 50 R-N26 51 R-N27 52 R-N28 53 R-N29 54 R-N30 55 R-N31 56 R-N32 57 R-N33 58 R-N34 59 R-N35 60 R-N36 61 R-N37 62 R-N38 63 R-N39 64 R-N40 65 R-N41 66 R-N42 67 R-N43 68 R-N44 69 R-N45 70 R-N46 71 R-N47 72 R-N48 73 R-N49 74 R-N50 75 R-N51 76 R-N52 77 R-N53 78 R-N54 79 R-N55 80 R-N56 81 R-N57 82 R-N58 83 R-N59 84 R-N60 85 R-N61 86 R-N62 87 R-N63 88 R-N64 89 R-N65 90 R-N66 91 R-N67 92 R-N68 93 R-N69 94 R-N70 95 R-N71 96 R-N72 97 R-N73 98 R-N74 99 R-N75 100 R-N76

After 24... P-N 25 Q-N3 K-N1 26 Q-B7ch K-R1 White wins with 27 R-B3.

## BRIDGE

## Numbers not always odds-on winners

It is a common fallacy to suppose that bridge demands mathematical ability. Even if card play does involve some rough knowledge of the odds, the practical player will always disdain pure percentages in favour of capitalizing on his opponent's predictable errors.

Rubber bridge. Game all. Dealer South.

W N E S  
♠ 104 103 102 101  
♥ 872 865 854 843  
♦ 872 865 854 843  
♣ 872 865 854 843

Opening lead 4-2. As we are doing well, I didn't think it necessary to shoot for tops," said North, as he proudly exposed his dummy. South cashed the diamonds on which East discarded two spades and a heart. "Interesting," he said as he cashed the ♠A and got on play with the ♠8 on which West discarded a spade. East played a heart back and West discarded the ♠10.

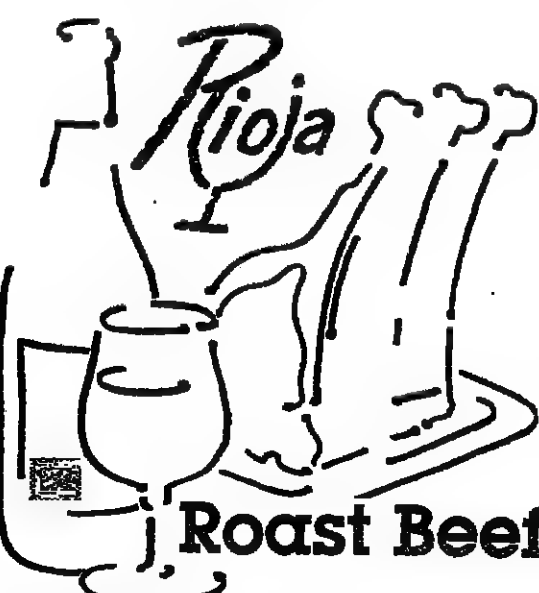
Declarer checked his calculation. West had four spades, four diamonds, a singleton heart, and therefore four clubs. How delicious, he would make the start even if West had started with ♠Q9x. He discarded the ♠A and rapidly replaced it as the truth dawned. If West had ♠Q9x, he would subsequently cover the ♠10 with the ♠Q and declarer would be unable to return to hand to take the marked finesse.

Declarer knew the odds and had the courage of his convictions. "May look silly, partner," he said, as he led the ♠10 and ran it to East's singleton Queen. "You did," said North unkindly, as East cashed the remainder of the tricks.

Jeremy Flint

Declarer won the opening lead with dummy ♠Q. East contributing the ♠6. With eight tricks on top, he has two chances for the ninth, the club finesse or a third heart trick. Reasoning that West, a well-known expert, would be sure to find the diamond switch if he regained the lead with the VK, declarer pinned his hopes on the clubs. East won the ♠Q and the defence had no difficulty in taking their diamonds to defeat the contract by two tricks.

Although South's diamond holding looks extremely tenuous, he should nevertheless rely on it because, given that West is on lead, Qxx opposite xx will provide a stopper at least 50 per cent of the time. In the case of East or West holding both the Ace and the King. On this occasion, West has led a heart, declarer's first bid suit. It is unlikely that he has four diamonds. With the ♠10 in dummy, the ♠Q is a sure stopper, provided West has no more than three diamonds.



## Roast Beef

In a glass of red Rioja see how the colour changes from the deep velvety red at the centre, to the outside where the colour is rather like the natural juices of roast beef. No wonder therefore, that the two go so perfectly well together.

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Look for the little stamp... The hallmark of excellence.

For further information please contact the Rioja Wine Information Centre, Vinos de España, 22 Manchester Square, London W1. Tel. 01-935 6140.

NO 12 IN A SERIES OF LAGAVULIN LORE

A MATTER OF TIME

The Hebridean Isle of Islay may not attract large numbers of students of architecture nor seekers of sea air.

Yet there are things there to interest them both.

For at the Lagavulin malt whisky distillery there are the traditional long buildings which have been specifically designed to allow the casks of malt whisky stored within to be exposed to the damp sea atmosphere of Islay.

Slowly, year upon year, tempered by the moderating influences of the sea air, the malt develops the rich flavour that is the basis of White Horse whisky.

The locals say this particular process of maturation takes out the fire but leaves in the warmth.

Proof of their insight is in every glass of White Horse.

Blended to let the malt shine through.

WHITE HORSE

Distinctive Scotch Whisky.



## EATING OUT

## The call of the country



It is used to dealing with brash Americans visiting "Blenheim" Palace round the corner. You're pleasantly pounced on as soon as you arrive and given every help you require.

The hotel's decor, a happy marriage of the old stone floors, low ceilings - and the modern - bright colours, tasteful prints - reflects the food. This is available either in the cosy bar or more formally in the smartly turned-out restaurant.

There's an excellent value set lunch at £9.50 which might include the likes of cream of mushroom soup, vegetable terrine, sautéed loin of pork with Grand Marnier and orange segments, lamb's kidneys in a Dubonnet and grain mustard sauce, and excellent quality puddings - a perfect of ginger.

honey and pistachio nuts with gooseberry preserve was superb. The balance between invention and tradition is also intelligently kept at The Castle Hotel, in Taunton; where chef Christopher Oakes has a range of menus to suit all pockets, from £7.90 for a two-course lunch, £16.90 for a three-course dinner and coffee with chocolate, and a splendid five-course at £27.50.

Local suppliers are credited on the menu which features trout, marinated Scandinavian-style, and served with herb dressing, loin of fallow deer with braised onion and flavoured with marjoram.

The Chequers Inn at Fowling, near Cambridge, boasts such warming dishes as hot cheese soufflé, rack of English lamb, hot smoked salmon quiche, and is pleasantly situated in the village centre.

The Copper Inn at the heart of Pangbourne, Berkshire, has pea soup with fritters, fillet of English lamb with Wiltshire grain mustard sauce and young lobster with cabbage to will more than convince you of the "mellow fruitfulness" of the season.

Stan Hey

Cheddington Court, Cheddington, Bedfordshire (093589 265) Open: daily 7-9pm. Feathers Hotel, Market Street, Woodstock, Oxfordshire (0993 812291) Open: daily 12.15-2.15pm and 7.15-9.45pm. The Castle Hotel, Castle Green, Taunton, Somerset (0823 72671) Open: daily 12.30-2pm and 7.30-9pm (9.30pm Fri, Sat). The Chequers Inn, Fowling, Cambridgeshire (076 382 369) Open: daily noon-2pm and 7-10pm. The Copper Inn, Church Road, Pangbourne, Berkshire (073 57 224) Open: daily 12.30-2.15pm and 7.30-9.30pm (9pm Sun).

## Paperbacks

## Women who trailed success



Powerful and purposeful: Dame Freya Stark just before her 90th birthday, and exploring Libya by camel

What do Penguin Modern Women have in common? The first four - a traveller in Arabia, a blues singer, a sad novelist and a woman of letters - seem reasonably diverse, if weighted towards literature. Their drives to succeed differ more than their fears and uncertainties, which in all cases stand out as though here their female biographers' sympathies quicken.

The movement I most enjoyed in these tales was when Freya Stark set out for the desert, a little uncertain of what she should concentrate on finding out, but absolutely sure that she must make something of her life. Her drive, as Caroline Moorehead makes abundantly clear, came out of a sense of failure, of being unmarried at 33 "due to some inevitable inferiority in myself".

Her camel journeys and mountain climbing, her learning and housebuilding, her wartime diplomacy in Baghdad and Delhi were dogged by ill-health, yet she became a powerful, purposeful and flamboyant presence. Success is good for women and Caroline Moorehead enjoys Dame Freya's pleasure in it. She treats her flights of fancy with a gritty affectionate, limiting irony, and her moments of tragedy or failure with warmth.

Jean Rhys and Bessie Smith, as exponents of modern

Freya Stark by Caroline Moorehead (Penguin, £2.95) Jean Rhys by Carole Angier (Penguin, £2.95) Bessie Smith by Elaine Feinstein (Penguin, £2.95) Rebecca West by Fay Weldon (Penguin, £2.95)

womanhood, have in common relentless promiscuity, a penchant for extravagant living, an increasing reliance on alcohol and bouts of terrible rage. Both were born in the 1890s, but whereas Bessie Smith was killed in 1937 Jean Rhys lived to be a feminist heroine (which she disliked) until 1979.

I have never been happy with Jean Rhys. Her heroines' fecklessness, dependence and paranoia alarm and frighten me more than her prose delights me. Carole Angier's relationship to her in this study seems exactly right. She reproduces the movements between self-pity, self-destruction and a kind of mocking realism without ever herself getting sucked into what she records. Her own voice, very distinct, judges without harshness, informs and, without patronizing, pities.

As a piece of writing, the combination of Elaine Feinstein's reticent understatement with Bessie Smith's raucous violence produces perhaps the most surprising result. Her essay is deceptively austere, a plain record of a wild, southern



black blues life that, by Bessie's own choice, never moved into glamorous international stardom.

It is interesting that it begins with a disclaimer of female weakness in its heroine. "The habit of submission of letting yourself be used, comes too easily to women. In Bessie's voice is a full-hearted rejection of any such foolishness".

But if Elaine Feinstein admires Bessie's largeness and gusto, her emphasis is sombre - on the blues singer's sense of being outside things, of singing from lack, from nothingness. What Feinstein has in common with her subject is a very fine ear. Her descriptions of Bessie's singing are brief and illuminating. I wish there were more of them.

And oh, Fay Weldon, what have you done! The experimental, hortatory aunt-persona you

adopted to address your imagined niece on the importance of Jane Austen worked beautifully. But you can't really get away with confining Dame Rebecca West to the bedroom fears of her one confinement and then intrude in *propria persona* to lecture her on the position of women and the deficiencies of H. G. Wells as a beloved. Is this not *lese-majesté*? Don't you shiver to think what that strong-minded and sharply-judging woman would have said, could she have read it?

Moreover, you owed us some illusion of contact with that strong mind and sharp judgement. The biographer-as-pupil is a novel idea, and you could argue, lays bare the real power-structures, but too much gets excluded in the process.

A. S. Byatt

## The seedy side of soap city

CRIME

Strip Search by Rex Burns (Penguin, £1.95) Denver, Colorado, is where the Carringtons of *Dynasty* ply their wealth. It is unlikely that their dealings have ever brought them into contact with Detective Gabe Wager. His Denver is a city of sleazy bars, topless dancers and drug-pushing. Two girls from that sad demi-monde are killed, and Wager is forced to rummage in the drug scene.

The Suicide Murders by Howard Engel (Penguin, £1.95) Benny Cooperman is a rare creation - a Canadian private investigator. He is a splendid figure, a middle-aged slob with a superior repertoire of wisecracks. A spate of apparent suicides among local whities is linked to small-town financial corruption, but Cooperman delves deeper and uncovers secrets from the past.

Tip on a Dead Crab by William Murray (Penguin, £1.95) Even Philip Marlowe might find himself ill at ease in William Murray's California. It is a state consisting almost entirely of race-tracks and the people who inhabit them. Shifty Anderson, a small-time magician and racing fanatic, stumbles on a scam and follows it through to ultimate disappointment.

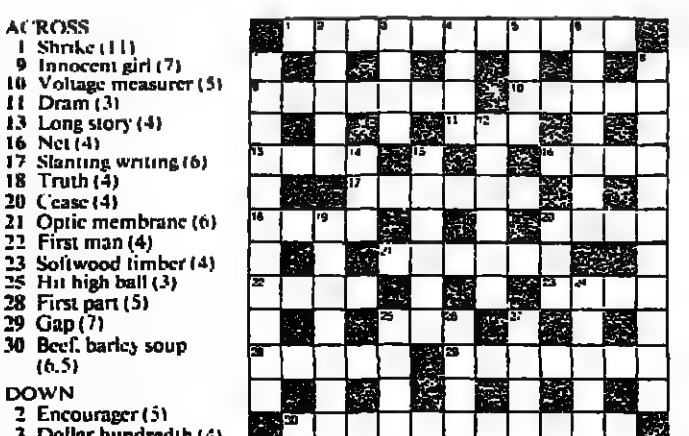
Death of a Unicorn by Peter Dickinson (Hamlyn, £1.95) Peter Dickinson has never shirked the elliptical, somewhat eccentric path to thrillers. His books seldom follow the same pattern. His latest is in the form of two narratives, separated by 30 years, written by an aristocratic lady romantic novelist. In the first her older, ugly lover is killed; the reason is explained in the second.

Monkey Puzzle by Paula Gosling (Pan, £1.95) American small town academia, teeming with dotty profs and lecturers with varied homicidal motives, provides the backdrop for a gritty cop with a soft centre, a gritty feminist with ditto, and a really nasty corpse.

Philip Howard Marcel Berlins

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 796)

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, November 14 1985. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, November 16 1985.



**SOLUTION TO No 795**  
ACROSS: 1 Enig 5 Sequel 8 Ria 9 Deduce 10 Leap to 11 Jeep 12 Winnipeg 14 Affray 17 Clever 19 Franklin 22 Pile 24 Mercer 25 About 26 Dot 27 Stress 28 Antler  
DOWN: 2 Nieve 3 Usurper 4 Freeway 5 Salon 6 Quasi 7 Extreme 13 Nil 15 Pervert 16 Ark 17 Cantata 18 Exploit 20 Niche 21 Lords 23 Lunge

The winners of prize concise No 790 are: Mrs I. P. Cross, of Harrington Road, Worthing, Cumbria, and Mrs F. Sewell, of Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey.

**SOLUTION TO No 790 (last Saturday's prize concise)**  
ACROSS: 1 Passion Play 9 York sac 10 Beaux 11 Has 13 Rind 16 Menu 17 Aspire 18 Palm 20 Eyt 21 Midrib 22 Onus 23 Balm 25 Bed 28 India 29 Realise 30 Protagonist  
DOWN: 2 All in 3 So 4 Ouch 5 Pubs 6 Academy 7 Hydrophobia 8 Exeunt omnes 12 Aurora 14 Dam 15 Sprit 19 Launder 20 Ebb 24 Amiss 25 Bait 26 Drag 27 Pawn

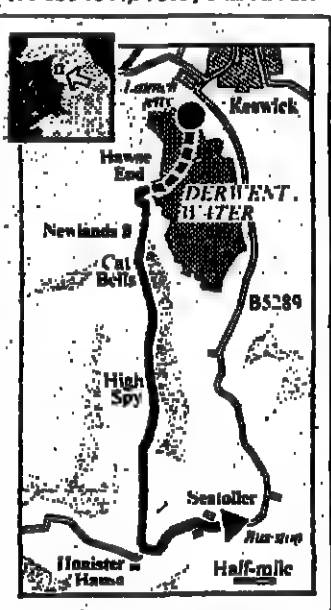
Name: Address:

## OUTINGS

**THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW:** Procession of 90 floats and 18 military bands lasts 3 1/2 hours. Among the floats are a life-size model of the Giotto spacecraft, a Wind in the Willows tableau, a 1929 Model T Ford, a B74 jet clipper, a Harrier jet, helicopter and racing car. The procession leaves Guildhall at 11am, then proceeds via Gresham Street, Cheapside, St Paul's, Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street to arrive at the Law Courts in the Strand at 12.30pm, where the new Lord Mayor - Alan Davis - signs the Declaration before the Lord Chief Justice and his judges. The return journey is via Temple, the Embankment, Blackfriars, Queen Victoria Street to arrive at

Marston House at about 1.40pm. This is followed by a massive fireworks display over the River Thames, at 4.50pm opposite HMS President on the Victoria Embankment. City of London, Today from 11am-5.30pm. Free.

**GRIMM TALES IN ENGLISH:** Exhibition to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Jacob Grimm in 1785 and brother Wilhelm a year later; includes the 1812 German first edition given to Walter Scott by the Grimms, and many illustrated English versions. The King's Library, British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-638 1544). Today until Jan 26.



The old road to Seathall diverges from the modern one on the left and provides one of the best descents. (Buses run back to Keswick from the foot of the village.)

The walk can be found on the North West Lakes Outdoor Leisure Map, or in the *Western Fells* volume of A. Wainwright's series of guides (published by The *Western Fells* in Keswick). Ordnance Survey map number 97.

Iain Liddell

Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-5pm. Closed Dec 24, 25, 26, Jan 1. Free.

**ONCE IN A LIFETIME:** New star show at the Planetarium which explains the nature of comets, outlines the history of the comet and traces its predicted course over Britain.

The London Planetarium, Marylebone Road, London NW1 (01-488 1121). Today until Dec 1985. Mon-Fri 12.15-4.20pm, Sat and Sun 11am-4.20pm. Closed Christmas Day. Adult £1.85, child £1.20.

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO HAMLET:** Workshop specifically designed for and aimed at those studying the play at A level but which will also appeal to many people interested in 20th-century interpretations of the tragedy. Devised and directed by Jeremy Bell, acted by Simon Andrews, Paul Clarkson, Paul Clayton, Stan Webber.

The Young Vic, 88 The Cut, London SE1 (01-928 8383). Today until Fri. Today and Mon-Fri 12.15-4.20pm, Tue, Wed and Fri 10.30am. Adult £4.95, child and student £2.95, accompanying teachers free.

**THE WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS MUSEUM:** Just re-opened after a rebuilding and refurbishment programme, this unique museum tells the story of lawn tennis and its antecedents through a number of interesting displays and exhibition areas containing historic items and are moribund.

The All England Club, Church Road, Wimbledon SW19 (01-946 6131). Closed Mon, public holidays and the three days preceding Wimbledon. Otherwise Tues-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm.

**SPACEWORKS:** Major new exhibition explaining the development, application and achievements of satellites in weather forecasting, navigation at sea and in television communication; it demonstrates the possible future of satellite technology and provides up-to-the-minute reports on the ESA's probe Giotto.

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10 (01-855 4422). Thurs-Dec 31. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm. Adult £1, child 50p, under 7s free.

Judy Froshang

## There once was a book full of Limericks

The Penguin Book of Limericks compiled and edited by E. O. Parrott (Penguin, £2.50)

Here be Limericks both old and new. Double, Reverse, and your Limericks. Through assorted sportiness. All kinds of nonsense. And seventeen different shades of blue.

The Port of Roman London by Gustav Milne (Batsford, £9.95)

London is where it is because the Romans made a port here, at the first place up river where there was a crossing and dry land for settlement. Over the past five years rescue excavations on the waterfront from Blackfriars to Billingsgate have recovered from oblivion the *Portus Londini* from the carpentry to the patterns of trade. This pretty book, written by the archaeologist and edited by Gustav Milne of the Museum of London, summarizes in a popular way the latest scholarly evidence for the roots of London.

Queen Victoria in her Letters and Journals selected by Christopher Hibbert (Penguin Lives & Letters, £4.95)

The Queen was a voluminous

## NON-FICTION

and vivid correspondent and diarist for 70 years, producing a record of public and private matters unique in the annals of royalty. She was often sharp and sometimes funny about affairs of state, children, alcohol, books, opera, the eccentricities of her darling Disraeli, and the sufferings of her beloved Albert. This selection by our Grand Old Popular Historian, illustrated by Victoria's own drawings, presents an intimate picture of the great Queen.

Brothers & Keepers by John Edgar Wideman (Allison & Busby, £4.95)

Ten years ago in a robbery over a heroin deal, the fence was shot. Robert Wideman, a black American, was arrested, tried, and sentenced to life imprisonment. His brother, novelist and Professor of English at the University of Wyoming, writes about the American dream that turned into a nightmare. He believes his brother witnessed but did not commit the murder, and writes a powerful piece about crime and punishment, about racial and cultural values, and about the waste of one life and the grief and guilt of a brother.

Liber Amoris by William Hazlitt (Hamish Hamilton, £4.95)

In his middle-age Hazlitt, the first modern literary critic, fell headlong into the male megalomania and romantic love with his landlady's daughter, half his age. His letters describe their circling encounters in his

way for the modern appreciation of Donne and the Metaphysical poets. Yet more striking is the way so many of his great contemporaries loved him. He could be touchy and rude. He often appeared to fawn on the rich and famous. His inaccuracy was horrifying - his memory for the facts he quoted imprecise to the point of falsehood. Yet he had a wonderful capacity for real friendship and for giving warm support to men whose exceptional talent could make such a relationship difficult.

It was indeed for friendship that Gosse craved. His deepest regret was that his father had never allowed himself to be a friend to his son, whose fondness for him he should not repeat that mistake.

Mrs Thwaite handles this relationship particularly well. No wonder in her introduction she tells us that she shrank from the task. *Father and Son* was, after all, Gosse's masterpiece. And, despite Gosse's own sensitive handling, it would have been so easy to have characterized Philip Gosse as a bigoted, pastor of an exclusive sect who, for all his scientific standing, twisted the evidence to refute Darwin. Instead, she lets him speak for himself - the father longing that his son should believe as he believed.

John Selwyn Gummer

## Friendship is his fame

Edmund Gosse was 57 when he wrote the book for which we now remember him - a comforting thought for the middle-aged! Perhaps his second greatest achievement after *Father and Son* was still to be interesting enough more than 50 years after his death to capture Ann Thwaite as a biographer. Unfailingly interesting and readable, she contrives through more than 500 pages to build a memorably clear picture of Gosse from what must have been a daunting mass of material.

Gosse's life was not an easy one to chronicle. So full of incident, so crowded with conversation and friendship, it lacks the milestones of a succession of great works by which literary biographies are ordinarily paced. Gosse himself believed he would be remembered for the great men he knew rather than for what he himself had written. His early hope of immortality as a poet faded, to be replaced by the assurance that his children would know he "possessed the confidence of men and women whose praise is better than rubies".

And what a glittering lot they were! Browning, Tennyson, Stevenson, Hardy, James: Gosse knew them all. From Swinburne to Sitwell, Gosse provided support and encouragement which they always acknowledged. He introduced Ibsen and Gide to the English public and, even though he failed to recognize Eliot or Pound, his criticism opened the

Edmund Gosse: A Literary Landscape 1849-1929 by Ann Thwaite (Oxford, £7.95)

way for the modern appreciation of Donne and the Metaphysical poets. Yet more striking is the way so many of his great contemporaries loved him. He could be touchy and rude. He often appeared to fawn on the rich and famous. His inaccuracy was horrifying - his memory for the facts he quoted imprecise to the point of falsehood. Yet he had a wonderful capacity for real friendship and for giving warm support to men whose exceptional talent could make such a relationship difficult.

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John Selwyn Gummer

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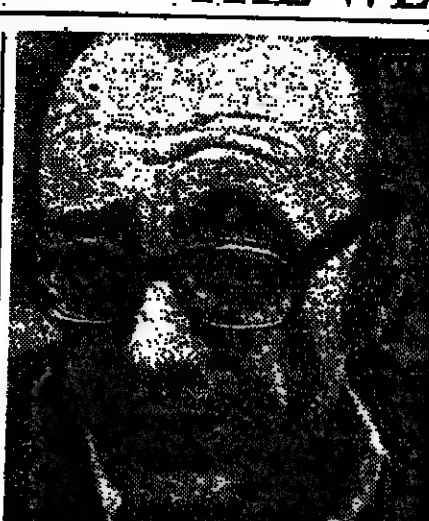
## THE WEEK AHEAD



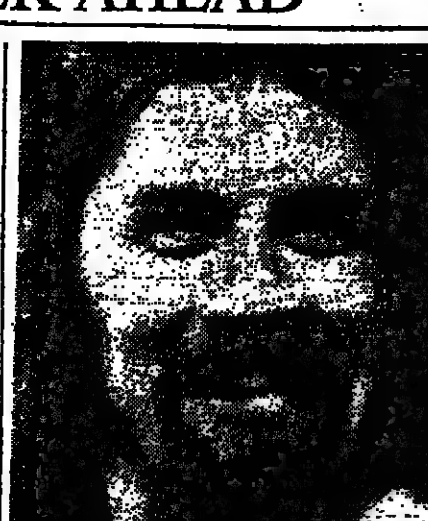
**JAZZ**  
**SHAPED NOTES:** Anthony Braxton's composition scores look like something by Miro, but the American saxophonist has his heart in jazz. Wednesday Bloomsbury Theatre, London (01-387 9629); Thursday People's Theatre, Newcastle (0632 321356); Friday Opera Theatre, Manchester (061-273 4504).



**TELEVISION**  
**PRESS GANG:** David Warner plays a star sports writer making the uneasy move from quality Sunday to down market tabloid in *Hold the Back Page*, in a promising 10-part comedy-drama by Stan Hay, and Andrew Nickolds. Their script has the authentic tang of Fleet Street. BBC1, Tuesday, 8-8.50pm.



**CONCERTS**  
**KEYED UP:** Alfred Brendel, piano virtuoso, christens the new Steinway recently bought by St John's, Smith Square, the church turned concert hall. In a recital of works by Schubert he plays the *Moments Musicaux*, "Wanderer" Fantasy and last Sonata, D 960 in B flat. Wednesday at 7.30pm (01-222 1061).



**VARIETY**  
**BIG YIN:** Billy Connolly, modern master of stand-up comedy, comes south of the border with his uniquely outrageous and unpredictable one-man show. Which means a couple of hours or so of improvised wisecracking, with the audience supplying feed lines. London Palladium (01-437 7373) from Monday.



**THEATRE**  
**LOVE CALLS:** Sara Kestelman as Mrs Frail in the National Theatre revival of William Congreve's 17th-century comedy, *Love For Love*. The director is Peter Wood, who previously directed the play for the National 20 years ago, and the cast also includes Michael Bryant, Lytton (01-928 2252) from Wednesday.



**BOOKS**  
**BRINKMANSHIP:** Andre Brink's novel *The Ambassador* (Faber, £9.95) has at its heart the relationship between a South African ambassador, his third secretary and their seductive women. Set in Paris and written in the early 1960s, it has been revised to highlight Brink's talent for social observation.

## THE TIMES CHOICE

## THEATRE

## IN PREVIEW

**INTERPRETERS:** Maggie Smith, Edward Fox and John Moffat, directed by Peter Yates in a new Ronald Harwood play about a group of Russians on a visit to London. Queens (01-734 1166). Previews today, Mon-Fri, Nov 18, 18. Opens Nov 18.

## OPENINGS

**BLOOD RELATIONS:** Second British production for Sharon Pollock's study of Lizzy Borden, accused of the murder of her father and stepmother. Barnice Stegers, Joyce Irvine, Richard Kles, Jan Bashford, directed by Lynn Gamble. Young Vic Studio, The Cut, London SE1 (01-928 6363). Opens Mon.

**BROTHERHOOD:** Don Taylor's play, centred on a 7th birthday party which holds surprises for all involved. Orange Tree, Kew Road, Richmond-upon-Thames (01-940 3838). Previews Thurs, Opens Fri.

**THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND:** "Documentary collage" drawn from interviews with miners and their families during and after the strike. Directed by John Burgess. Final offering in the National Theatre's Festival of New Plays. Cottesloe (01-928 2252). Opens Thurs.



**THE SLOANE RANGER REVUE:** Rupert Baker, Glynis Brown, Sarah Mortimer, Doug Fisher, Jan Ravens (above, with Royce Mills) and Nick Wilton in Ned Sherrin and Neil Shand's musical revue based on the *Harpers and Queen Official Sloane Ranger* books by Ann Barr and Peter York. Directed by Sherrin. Duchess (01-838 8243). Previews today, Mon. Opens Tues.

**PRESENT CONTINUOUS:** Fringe First Award winner. Stephen Lyndon's picture of a tragic culture clash between a provincial Japanese wife and mother and her British feminist lodger. Professional stage premiere of a radio play. Offstage Downstairs, 37 Chalk Farm Road, London NW1 (01-267 9648). Opens Thurs. Previews Nov 18.

**RETURNING FIRE:** Paines Plough commissioned this play, which will tour the country, from Stephen Jeffreys to mark the return of Halley's Comet. Directed by Pip Broughton.

**Visionaries**  
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## FILMS

## OPENINGS

**ARGIE:** Bizarre black comedy from an exiled Argentinian, Jorge Blanco, set in London during the Falklands war. ICA (01-930 3847). From Wed.

**THE SCORPION (18):** Peter Tuinman as an embezzler who finds himself a pawn in an Establishment conspiracy. Cincuenta Pantan Street (01-930 0631), ABC Fulham Road (01-370 0265). From Fri.

**INVASION U.S.A. (18):** Crude exploitation piece in *Rambo* style, with Chuck Norris as the lone hero pitted against mercenaries trying to generate another civil war. Prince Charles (01-437 8181), Cincuenta Pantan Street (01-930 0631), Classic Oxford Street (01-636 0310). From Fri.

**THE PRETTY POLICEMAN'S** (18): Fund-raising performance for London Gay Switchboard, with Billy Connolly, Tom Robinson, Simon Callow, Maggie Stead, Mathilde Santing, Miriam Margulies and The Communards. Piccadilly Theatre (01-437 4506). Sun at 7.30pm; 27.50-225.

**TALENT CONTEST GRAND FINAL:** Paul Daniels is compere to 16 amateur acts in the final stage of a national competition organized by English Tourist Board and The Stage. London Palladium (01-437 7373). Sun at 7.30pm; 24-28.

**SELECTED**  
**LETTER TO BREZHNEV (18):** Chris Bernard's sprightly low-budget British comedy about two Liverpool women hunting for romance with Classic Royal (01-630 8815).

**PRIZZI'S HONOUR (18):** Two hired killers fall in love - a tangled tale with lots of wry comedy. Lovingly directed by John Huston. With Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2771).

**MISHIMA: A LIFE IN FOUR CHAPTERS (16):** The life, suicide and aesthetic world of the Japanese writer Yukio Mishima. Lumiere (01-536 0891); Electric Screen (01-229 3884).

**THE EMERALD FOREST (18):** An exotic fantasia from director John Boorman, with Powers Boothe (above) searching for his son in the Brazilian jungle. Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252).

**GALLERIES**  
**OPENINGS**  
**HOMAGE TO BARCELONA:** Catalonia comes to London in this major tribute to the art and architecture of the Spanish city, from 1888 until 1936. Stars represented include Picasso, Miró, Dalí and Gaudí. And TORRES-GARCIA: an exhibition of work by an artist admired in his homeland, Latin America, but little known here. Hayward Gallery, South Bank.

**BOOKINGS**  
**LAKE AND LA FILLE MAI GARDÉE:** Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 4141).  
**THE NUTCRACKER:** Booking open for Christmas show by London Festival Ballet. Dec 26-Jan 15. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).  
**LINDISFARNE CHRISTMAS TOUR:** Includes Leeds University, Dec 6 (0532 438071); Oxford Apollo, Dec 7 (0865 244544/5); St David's Hall, Cardiff, Dec 8 (0222 358000) and 13 more venues ending with the Lansdowne Theatre, London, on Dec 30 (tickets from Keith Prosser or by post from Odeon. Credit card hotline: 01-439 3371).  
**HALLÉ ORCHESTRA:** Booking open from this week for December concerts at Free Trade Hall; including performances of "The Messiah" (Mozart version), Halle Booking Office, 30 Cross Street, Manchester (061 834 1712).  
**CABARET:** Evening of pre-Second World War Germany: a revue commissioned by the Royal Academy to complement its autumn exhibition, "German Art in the 20th Century". Dec 5. Royal Academy (01-734 9052).  
**AS YOU LIKE IT:** Booking opened this week for Adrian Noble production from Stratford. Previews from Dec 12. Also premiere production of *Melons* by Bernard Pomerance in The Pit, with Ben Kingsley. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891).  
**LONDON FILM FESTIVAL:** Personal and telephone bookings can now be made. Festival runs from Nov 14 to Dec 1. National Film Theatre, South Bank 01-928 3232; credit card bookings 01-928 1711; recorded daily information 01-633 0274.

**LAST CHANCE**  
**WAYNE SLEEPS HOT SHOE SHOW:** Last performance tonight of show based on popular BBC TV series, combining tap, jazz, rock and ballet, comedy sketches and showstoppers; with song and dance routines from Cabaret to Ravel's "Bolero". Choreography by Anthony Van Laest and Wayne Sleep. 5.30, 8.30pm. London Palladium, Argyll Street, London W1 (01-437 7373/2055).  
**GWEN JOHN: AN INTERIOR LIFE:** More than 50 paintings and some 75 drawings from private and public collections in the USA, Europe and Australia, in first Gwen John retrospective in Britain since 1988. Exhibition moves to Manchester before going to the US. Closes in London tomorrow. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2. Admission £1.50 (01-638 4141).  
**POUND'S ARTISTS:** Centenary exhibition of artists who influenced the poet, including Whistler and the Parisian avant-garde of the 1920s, and Italian Renaissance art. Paintings, sculptures and photos by Wyndham Lewis, Fernand Léger, Pissarro. Closes tomorrow. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313).

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed.  
 Theatre: Tony Patrick and Martin Cropper; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Photography: Michael Young; Films: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse

## Murder most respectable



**Antonia Fraser is fascinated by deadly crime, as her play on television tonight reveals. Nicholas Shakespeare reports**

Lady Antonia Fraser inspects her pink finger-nails, smooths out her blue dress and says: "Whenever I can't think what to do, I kill somebody." She speaks in a voice once described as half way between Joan of Arc and a chorus girl. "I like methods which are not clear, like falling down steps or drug overdoses. Neither black nor white." She looks up from her hands and smiles. "As in life."

Tonight this murderous instinct - so far contained in her *Jemima Shore* thrillers - finds an outlet in her first original television play for 10 years. Entitled *Mister Clay*, *Mister Clay* grew from a meeting with its producer, Peter Rogers. "He and I were on the board of the Hampstead Theatre and we chatted about how what we really wanted was a good murder play." This feeling had been reflected in a Granada poll asking what people would most like to watch which they were not getting. So he commissioned six writers - Gordon Honeycombe and Fay Weldon among them - to write six studio-based scripts.

Rogers sent Lady Antonia the case of Arthur Warren Waite, a tennis champion, dentist and ex-ceremonial poet who, having murdered her relatives, had blissfully tried to murder his wife. The notion of a charming murderer was something that appealed as particularly English, and led to the creation of Max.

Max is genuinely sweet to Clay in so far as it is possible. He would like to be a policeman. He has no scruples. He is totally selfish.

"I wrote it straight off, bang, like that under an olive tree in Portugal. Harold said it was too short. Insanely I rejected his advice, through he might be expected to know one or two things about this kind of thing. But it was too short. So I added another character - Roddy - and don't know what I'd do without him now."

"I was attracted to murder so long ago I can't remember," she resumes. "I went to murder plays a good deal as a child and always took my children to them instead of Shakespeare. I

don't think I could write the way I do without Agatha Christie or Patricia Highsmith. Whatever anyone says about Agatha Christie, she was a genius at laying traps and red herrings." Why are women so drawn to this genre? "My own theory is that women moved into an area not totally occupied by men - men do spy novels and find this vacuum, filled it and flourished. It's an advantage to be a woman crime writer now. It's respectable."

In fact so respectable are Lady Antonia and her colleagues, she continues, that their thrillers are reviewed in America in a section referred to as "English cosies". Do such charming people ever come into contact with their subject matter? In answer, she tells mischievously of a Crimewriters' trip to a New York morgue and how an eminent member fainted, and of her father, Lord Longford, who spoke at the Crimewriters' dinner in May. "He was able to say he was currently visiting eight murderers."

If the skirted members of her criminal fraternity do not go to that length, they at least make sure their information is accurate. "A forensic expert gave us a fascinating talk on fingerprints recently. Do you know," she said, re-examining her own, "that every finger has 24 characteristics. In Britain for a fingerprint to be held as evidence it needs 16 to match - the highest in the world. In South Africa, surprise, surprise, you've only got to have three."

She uses these experts - especially a friendly policeman at Scotland Yard - for her own work. "I had this jolly good kitchen knife in *A Splash of Red* and I wanted to know how the blood would spurt." Does she ever entertain such feelings herself, I wonder? "I've never felt like murdering anyone. Quite the reverse," she promises gracefully, folding her arms. "All people who write murder stories are perfectly nice and respectable. So please make me look like that."

*Mister Clay*, *Mister Clay* launches ITV's *Time for Murder* series (tonight, LWT, 10pm; other ITV regions, 9pm).

## ARTS DIARY

## Assessing the archives

More treasures from the estate of the distinguished art historian Lord Clark may have to be sold to meet the demands of the Inland Revenue. Already a Turner painting, "Seascape, Folkestone", has been sold for £7.5 million, but the forthcoming sale of his personal archive may not make up the difference. However, despite initial fears that the archive, found mouldering in the ruins of the Getty Museum, there is good news. His son, junior Employment Minister Alan Clark, now seems more confident that the important collection of documents will remain in Britain.

## Naming names

The unsung heroine of the *Sloane Ranger* phenomenon is a humble magazine journalist who coined the phrase. Next week the West End sees the opening of *The Sloane Ranger Revue* - a celebration of the social occurrence first spotted by writers Peter York and Ann Barr. Now ten years old, the phrase could well be a candidate for inclusion in the next edition of the OED. But though York and Barr have copyrighted the phrase and traded handsomely off it, they did not invent it. The flash of genius came from Martina Margolis, then a sub-editor at *Harper's*, and a Queen who substituted it for York's idea of *Connaught Ranger*. "I haven't made a penny out of it," says Martina. "I wish them well, but tell them I wouldn't mind a ticket for the show."

A major television history of choral music, to be called *The Choralists*, will shortly be announced by FilmScreen International. However, one naming missing from the forthcoming publicity blurb will be that of André Previn who had been invited to front the eight one-hour programmes. Now, say FilmScreen, the films have been "re-formatted" and will not have a single presenter. Reasons range from Previn's many commitments to a shift in artistic policy. Informed sources point to a rather more cynical factor: Previn asked for too much money.

## At a loose end

The artistic row between film director Terry Gilliam and Universal studios in America is heating up. Gilliam's film *Brazil*, which has been released in Europe to critical acclaim, does not appeal to Universal who want him to give it a happy ending before it is released in the US. Gilliam, and, after a concerted campaign of attrition, has now taken a two-page advert in *Variety*, publicly demanding that the Universal bosses release the



Gilliam and de Niro  
 film. With his actors, including Robert de Niro, backing him Gilliam may yet win. But, says a film insider, "He'll find it hard to work in Hollywood again."

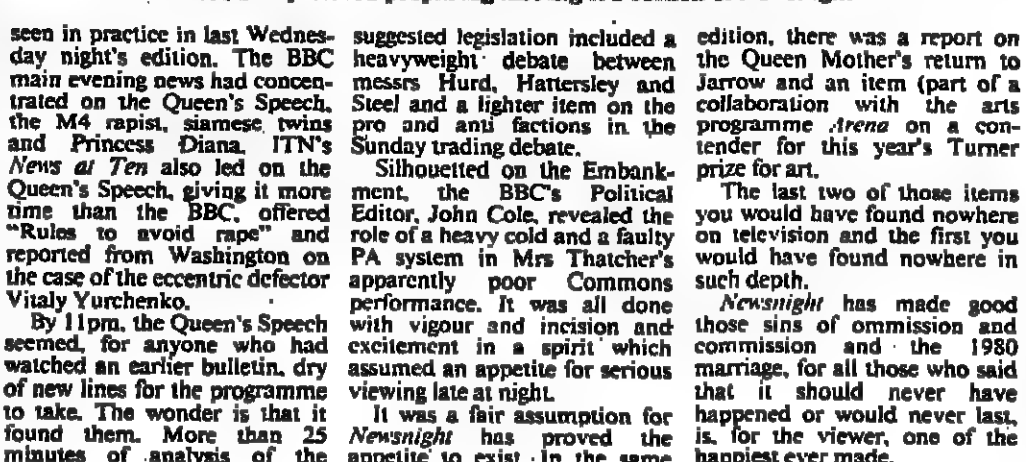
## No Parkin here

There can be few spicier stage acts than that of Molly Parkin, the writer and former fashion journalist who has turned, in her autumn years, to burlesque. Her one-woman show is down-right rude and definitely not for the prudish. So it is hardly surprising to hear she has been banned from ever returning to the Dublin Festival. While audiences on her recent trip there were grateful she did not take her clothes off, they were agitated to see Molly taking her teeth out. But the monologue that followed was more than they could handle. The crash of slamming seats was deafening. "It wasn't just individuals who walked out," says Molly, with a relish, "but whole rows."



## Radio Tears in the beer

reporting and analysis. Because of its timing, *Newsnight* was first with the White House announcement that "the President has cancer" but followed it, over the next few nights, with deeper pieces on the position of the President and on the nature of the interim government which ran the White House in his absence.



## Peter Ackrovd

**David Wade**

**Stephen Pettitt**

the colours glowed when required and the finale had solemnity as well as grandeur. Andre Previn was the conductor.

**Noël Goodwin**

## Hilary Finch

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Steinberg fails to unnerve Mercury Securities

Is Mercury Securities, one of the most complex financial conglomerates being formed in the City ahead of next year's big bang, about to go American? The stock market appears to think it will after Saul Steinberg's revelation yesterday that he has taken a 10 per cent stake in Mercury. The company's shares have risen more than 110p to 703p in the past week.

While history shows that Mr Steinberg is capable of bidding for large financial services companies, his attempt at Chemical Bank in the US, for example - Mercury's moguls are feeling fairly safe. They could probably rely on the Bank of England and even the Government to discourage a foreign takeover of such a key City institution at such a critical time.

Mr Steinberg would also be taking an extremely expensive risk in making a bid. Any price paid for Mercury would include a large element of goodwill, but goodwill is what Mr Steinberg is least likely to get from the Mercury management and its complex of banking, broking and dealing companies. If much of the talent in Mercury left, Mr Steinberg would find it still more expensive to buy in new talent, as other budding financial service conglomerates have already found.

At this stage Mr Steinberg probably sees his stake as an investment. If so he may choose to sell it and take a profit before next autumn's big bang or hold for longer. A sale during the big bang period while the City is holding its breath might not be so easy to achieve.

For similar reasons the Hill Samuel Group, which announced a set of healthy results yesterday, should also be relaxed about takeover attempts. Speculation about a bid for Hill Samuel has become an old chestnut, but a chestnut with a flatterer's kernel. The group's after-tax profits have surged from £11.2 million in 1981 to £31.9 million last year.

This sort of performance, which shows no sign of slowing down, would make Hill Samuel easy to defend than in drier days of yore. Over the six months to September 30, this year the group's after-tax profits rose 32 per cent to £17.5 million, compared with £13.2 million at the same time last year.

The merchant banking results, which take account of the stake in Wood Mackenzie moved ahead solidly by nearly £2 million to £11.9 million without any conspicuously hefty fee income like that from the Jaguar share launch in the first half of last year. There is also a growing momentum to the groups diversification beyond banking which should in time give it a more stable base.

Profits from investment management rose £600,000 to £2.8 million while those from employee benefits services jumped by £2 million to £2.5 million, helped by a restructuring in the US. Insurance broking also turned in a healthy increase though the smaller shipping and Lloyd's underwriting operations did not do so well. With the interim dividend up 10.8 per cent to 3.6p Hill Samuel shareholders have little to complain about. Under the experienced guidance of Sir Robert Clark and the vigorous director of Christopher Castleman, Hill Samuel is now equipped with one of the ablest, as well as youngest, City teams.

## Changing image of Elders' buccaneer

John Elliott flies back to Australia today after another of his fleeting visits which leave people at Hill Samuel more jet-lagged than the fast-moving Australian. This was a particularly productive trip; it tied up most of the detail that will appear in the formal offer document setting out Elders' £1.8 billion takeover bid for Allied-Lyons.

It has been no easy task. When it appears, a week on Monday, the document will reveal that 23 separate companies are involved in the elaborate structure of Elders' bidding vehicle, DXL. There are likely to have been some changes since Mr Elliott reluctantly

revealed to a sceptical City that the bidder was not simply a UK subsidiary of the Australian company famous for Fosters lager. The Takeover Panel itself was somewhat surprised to learn that DXL was not what its experts in their English innocence had assumed.

Since attention has focused so intently on DXL and the involvement of the Monaco-based Australians Bob Cowper and Richard Wiesener, the offer document is likely to be at pains to show the newly-formed company as nothing more than a tax-conscious way of keeping the banks happy. Not easy with 23 different components involved, but the gentle restructuring will be aimed at doing just that. The banks, however, still hold 58 per cent of DXL and those who are opposed to the bid principle will still talk gravely of its wider implications.

Mr Elliott is unperturbed. He knows that money will decide the outcome of his bid and that his 255p offer is not enough. Allied's shares are an optimistic 285p. "We have the backing to make a winning bid," he confidently insists. He will be backing Elders' cash offer with a loan note alternative which may have more appeal to tax payers.

The ebullient Mr Elliott claims a list of eight to 10 companies seriously interested in buying parts of Allied's food business should his bid succeed. Imperial Group has already owned up to a continuing longing for parts of Lyons and Elliott believes that it would take him less than six months to carve up profitably the business among no more than three avid takers.

While he waits for the battle proper to begin, he is shrugging off attacks from Allied House. The implication that he feels such tactics are beneath him is slightly unfair. It is simply that the Panel is having problems clearing some of the hard-hitting advertisements that Elders intends to run.

Mr Elliott has used the full to replace his buccaneering image with that of a more establishment man. While Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales were enjoying the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday, who else should have been called upon to present the Fosters trophy? Mr Elliott is observing protocol and not revealing what the Royal couple said about Fosters. Nor their comments about the catering at Buckingham Palace - all done by Allied.

## Tokyo alarm at dollar's strength

Like true love, the course of the dollar is not running entirely smoothly. Despite Paul Volcker's confirmation that the September agreement on currency intervention between the Group of Five was underpinned by an understanding that the United States would not put upward pressure on interest rates (in other words, that the Federal Reserve would ease up its monetary policy), the dollar ended the week with disturbing strength.

In Tokyo, the Japanese finance minister sounded the alarm as the yen reversed course; it dropped against the dollar, which closed at ¥207.55 in Tokyo yesterday. In London the pound wobbled, but eventually closed only a touch down against the dollar, at \$1.4175. The Bundesbank intervened to bring the dollar down from its Thursday night peak of DM2.6445; in New York yesterday, it was trading two pence lower.

The Group of Five's commitment to getting the dollar down clearly remains strong. The governor of the Bank of Japan told a Diet committee in Tokyo yesterday that the business community should work towards the maintenance of a stronger yen. And in Washington, interest in exchange rates is being stoked up by a high profile "Congressional summit" taking place early next week. But there seems to be life in the markets, and the old dog dollar, yet.

## United States poised to end unitary tax war with Britain

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

President Reagan is to introduce federal legislation to outlaw unitary taxation, a move which should signal an end to the long battle between Britain and the United States.

In response to Mr Reagan's statement, the British Treasury said that it would suspend retaliatory action under section 54 of this year's Finance Act as long as the legislation is introduced by the end of this year and becomes law by the end of 1986.

Unitary taxation - a system whereby certain US states tax foreign companies on the basis of worldwide earnings - has been the subject of intensive lobbying by British industry.

Yesterday's presidential move is understood to have arisen from a series of contacts between Mr James Baker, the

US Treasury Secretary, and the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson.

In the light of the Presidential statement, Britain's double taxation agreement with the US is likely to be modified.

Mr Michael Grylls, Conservative MP for Surrey North-west, and leader of the Parliamentary campaign against unitary taxation, said: "Presidential interventions are just what the doctor ordered. British industry has worked solidly for about 10 years to resolve this thorny issue."

Mr Peter Welch, chairman of the Unitary Tax Campaign, said: "It appears that at long last justice will be done in 1986."

The President's statement proposes legislation to restrict unitary taxation to the "water's edge", so that multinationals operating in the US can only be

taxed by the state on the basis of income derived within the US.

It also proposes to "address the question of equitable taxation of foreign source dividends."

The Treasury said the Government welcomed that statement and assurances that the representation of the United States in current Law suits is consistent with the approach now taken on the unitary tax issue.

British companies involved in suits over unitary taxation include ICI, Barclays and Becton.

Twelve states apply unitary taxation in various forms. Six - Oregon, Florida, Massachusetts, Indiana, Utah and Colorado - have taken steps in the past year to reform unitary taxation. Legislation to introduce a

water's edge solution to unitary taxation in California failed at state level in September.

In five states - Alaska, North Dakota, Montana, New Hampshire and Idaho - legislation to amend the tax has failed to get off the ground.

Section 54 of the 1985 Finance Act allowed the withdrawal by the United Kingdom from US parent companies of the entitlement to tax credits on dividends paid by British subsidiaries. Mr Grylls was its Parliamentary sponsor.

The CBI, which has also been a leading voice in the campaign against the tax said: "We have worked alongside a number of major companies which have considerable investments in the US. This has become a major issue and we shall be delighted if it can be settled amicably."

## LME to reopen November 18

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

The London Metal Exchange last night announced that tin trading would resume on Monday, November 18. The move is a challenge to the International Tin Council and its 22 member governments to show before then how they intend to pay off the more than £800 million owed by the ITC.

Mr Michael Brown, the LME's chief executive, said: "The exchange has suffered so much that we had to do something".

The LME's decision was influenced by the collapse of metals trading on the exchange, which was leading to alternative pricing mechanisms. It is understood that the European copper refiners were proposing to establish a producer pricing system next week.

Mr Brown said the exchange would announce next Wednesday how it would reintroduce tin trading. It is expected that the feared free fall will be controlled by setting limits to each day's price movement.

The tin crisis broke just over two weeks ago when the ITC's buffer stock, which was supposed to hold the price above £8,500 a tonne, told the LME it had run out of cash. Tin trading on the LME was immediately suspended.

Since then, the ITC has met twice without finding a solution. The council has positions totalling around £600 million, chiefly with LME ring-dealing members, and owes another £300 million to a group of 16 banks and metal dealers.

By announcing an opening date, the LME has put pressure on the ITC - whose next meeting is scheduled for November 14, the day after the

LME says how tin trading is to be conducted - to reveal its plans for meeting the debts.

If the ITC cannot agree, and the LME begins trading in tin without the buffer stock operating, some 9,500 tonnes of tin could immediately come on to the market. Another 6,100 tonnes will be available after seven days. Without limits on price movements, tin could fall very quickly from the pre-suspension price of £8,000 a tonne.

Both British government and LME sources said the LME decision was not the result of any unofficial assurance that the ITC would finally come to a conclusion next week.

But the Government said it was still trying to persuade other ITC members unequivocally to accept their obligations, as had the British Government.

## SE may limit compensation liability

By Cliff Feltham

A move to impose a ceiling on the potential liability of the compensation fund is likely to be considered by the ruling Stock Exchange Council as the market edges towards the big bang.

No upper limit has been fixed and the council is bound to ensure it is high enough to maintain confidence in the market. One suggestion is that a figure of £500,000 for any single claim made against the fund could be considered acceptable.

An examination of the way the compensation fund works - it protects clients against financial loss if a member firm collapses - has been going on for several years. But now the council considers that the widespread changes taking place in the whole structure and future of the market make it appropriate to take a fresh look at the exposure of the fund.

The feeling is that the end of the present dealing system will usher in larger groupings hand-

ling bigger and bigger chunks of business, particularly from the institutions.

This poses the threat of potentially huge claims against the fund in the event of a member firm's failure. Some firms feel that they will be carrying an unreasonable liability and point out that no other similar fund elsewhere has such an open-ended commitment.

Ordinary private clients will be unaffected by the proposed changes.

## Payout plan at Arenson

Arenson Group, the office furniture maker, intends to resume dividend payments on its ordinary shares this financial year, after a four-year hiatus, if shareholders accept a plan to convert the outstanding preference shares to ordinary shares.

Arenson proposes that £370,000 of preference shares be converted to 2.14 million ordinary shares. The unlisted preference shares, which carry 12 per cent net dividends, are held by about 10 institutions. No dividend has been paid for two and a half years.

Holders of 84 per cent of the preference shares have indicated they will support the proposals. Arenson reported pretax profits in the year to July 31 of £369,000, a 58 per cent increase on the previous year on a turnover 7.5 per cent ahead at £16.2 million.

## Air order record

United Airlines, America's biggest airline, has ordered up to 116 Boeing planes, worth more than £2 billion, said to be the largest single order in aviation history.

Applicants for 6,000 shares or more in International City Holdings will receive only 5.7 per cent of the shares they applied for. Smaller applications will be subject to a ballot. In respect of Iucoc, another new entrant to the stock market, applications will be made in full.

## Software loss

Micro Focus Group, the software business, has reported a pretax loss of £2.8 million for the six months to July 31, down from a £1.4 million profit. No dividend is payable. Logica, another software company, has published heavily qualified accounts. *Tempos, page 24*

## Norton approach

Norton Villiers Triumph, the motorcycle company, has received an approach which may lead to an offer.

## London Shop

The headline on yesterday's story on London Shop Properties Trust incorrectly stated that the chairman had been ousted. The ousted board member was Mr Sidney Farr, a director. We apologise for any embarrassment caused to the chairman Mr Hugh Jones.

## Memcom reshuffles its board

By Alison Eadie

Memcom, International Holdings, the electronic filing systems group which came to the Unlisted Securities Market last February, has carried out a board reshuffle. Its merchant bank, Robert Fleming, which introduced it to the USM, has resigned.

Mr Ronald Marler has resigned as a non-executive director because of a disagreement over measures for strengthening management.

Mr Ben Owens, at present chairman and chief executive, is to become president and devote more time to research, sales and marketing. The company is looking for a new managing director.

Mr Keith Whitten has been named non-executive chairman and Mr Nigel Eldred becomes a non-executive director.

Memcom shares fell 5p to 60p yesterday, against its introduction price in February of 310p.

In September the chairman gave a warning that there would be a significant loss in the first half to October 31.

## Abbey admits agency review error

The Abbey National building society yesterday confessed to making an error of judgement during a cost efficiency review it is carrying out of its 3,000 full-time agencies in Britain.

The error concerned certain insurance brokers in the South of England who recently were

informed by the society that their agencies would be terminated in accordance with notice it served in June.

The agents claimed, however, that the notices were served purely to introduce a new commission structure, and that subsequent assurances from the

Abbey had confirmed that the agencies would continue.

Mr John Bayliss, general manager of the Abbey, said: "Those people will now be given six months' notice. Legally we were OK but morally we were wrong."

## MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
FT Ind Ord	1082.5 (+9.0)
FT All Share	676.10 (+0.90)
FT Govt Securities	83.29 (-0.22)
FT-SE 100	1390.1 (+5.3)
Bargains	25.92
Dataseam USM	107.20 (-0.78)
New York	
Dow Jones	1395.83 (-3.88)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12,851.05 (-0.19)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1722.38 (+0.45)
Amsterdam Gen	220.7 (+1.1)
Sydney AO	1012.5 (+10.0)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1755.0 (-16.5)
Brussels	
General	826.08 (-40.94)
Paris CAC	227.7 (-1.1)
Zurich	
SKA General	455.00 (+8.40)

GOLD	
London fixing	am 322.10 pm 321.95
close	322.00-322.50 (2227.00-227.50)
New York	
Comex (Latest)	\$321.5

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISER:	
Edmond Holdings	9.50p +1.50p
Weeks Associates	20p +3p
Rotaprint	3.50p +0.50p
Abaco Ints	150 +1.50p
Crysalis	130p +12p
Cpe Computer	33p +3p
Brown (Matthew)	523p +45p
Reebrook Hds	74p +5p
Petrano	125p +10p
Canning (W)	92p +7p
SI Group	21p +1.50
Yorks Chemical	73p +5p
Simon Eng	210p +14p
Monument Oil	18p +1p
Brown & Jackson	17p +1p
Cooper Inds	27p +1.50p
Maxprint	18p +1p
Marston Thompson	82p +5p
Gears Gros	74p +4p
Finlay (James)	96p +5p
Horizon Travel	37p +5p
Whitbread Invest	224p +12p
FALLS:	
Micro Focus	110p -30p
Castle (GS)	13p -3p
ICC Oil	6.50p -1.50p
CPU Computers	21p -4p
Adam Leisure	9p -1p

CURRENCIES	
London:	
\$	\$1.4175 (-0.0020)
DM	3.7159 (-0.0030)
Sfr	3.0547 (-0.0035)
FF	11.3202 (-0.0100)
Yen	290.69 (-1.10)
Index	78.5 (+0.2)
New York:	
\$	\$1.4175
DM	3.7159
Index	129.6 (+0.5)
ECU	50.594342
SDR	50.753026

INTEREST RATES	
London:	
Bank Base	11 1/8%
3-month interbank	11 1/8%-11 3/4%
3-month eligible bills	buying rate 11%-11 1/2%
US:	
Prime Rate	9.50%
Federal Funds	7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.25-7.24%
30-year bond price	104 1/2%-104 1/4%

# Oppenheimer

## No.1 IN EUROPE YET AGAIN.

Over the last 12 months the Oppenheimer European Growth Trust has outperformed every oil unit trust in its sector.

We have been making this statement for the last three months. The situation has not changed.

Our performance has been consistently good. The table below summarises the results for this and two of our other top performing funds.

	Increase in value 12 months to 1.11.85*	Position vs. other unit trusts in the same sector
Oppenheimer European	+48.4%	1st
Oppenheimer Pacific	+22.9%	1st
Oppenheimer UK	+44.6%	6th

\*figures are offer to bid with net income reinvested 1.11.84-1.11.85. Source 'Planned Savings'.

Over the same 12 month period Oppenheimer UK Growth and European Growth were both in the top 10 of all UK authorised unit trusts.\*

Let us tell you more. Just call our dealers on **01-236 3885** (6 lines)

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## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The dollar closed firmer on balance after hectic overnight and active early trading in London yesterday.

The pound closed fairly steady on Thursday's closing levels a touch lower against the dollar at 1.4175 (1.4195) and slightly lower in terms of the mark at 3.7156 (3.7186).

The effective index ended with a 0.2 advantage, at 79.5, after some narrow fluctuations.

Operators said the pound's fall this week has been partly a result of nervousness about oil prices, but, in the absence of specific events, a feeling that the pound is slightly overvalued and also played a part.

Sheik Yamani's warning of an oil price war had little effect.

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Stockholm	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Copenhagen	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Helsinki	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Tokyo	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Singapore	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Bombay	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Calcutta	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Rangoon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Colombo	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Madras	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Delhi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Mumbai	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Jaipur	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Bhopal	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Varanasi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Patna	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Dispur	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Guwahati	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Shillong	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Imphal	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Itanagar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Dehra Dun	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Delhi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Jaipur	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Bhopal	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Varanasi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Patna	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Guwahati	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Shillong	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Dehra Dun	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Stockholm	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Copenhagen	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Helsinki	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Tokyo	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Singapore	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Bombay	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Calcutta	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Rangoon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Colombo	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Madras	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Delhi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Mumbai	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Jaipur	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Bhopal	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Varanasi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Patna	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Dispur	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Guwahati	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Shillong	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Imphal	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Itanagar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Dehra Dun	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Stockholm	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Period rates spent a dull day yesterday, little changed from their overnight levels.

Interbank rates are now almost completely flat from the ones to six.

The overnight rate, having sat at 11 1/4 per cent for most of the morning, firmed to 11 1/2 per cent during lunch and then collapsed through 10 1/2 per cent to close about 10 1/4 per cent in close trading.

The discount market for the day was easily absorbed by the discount market.

## EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## GOLD

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Dehra Dun	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## ECGD

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Stockholm	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Helsinki	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## TREASURY BILL TENDER

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Market rates	Forward rates
New York	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
London	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Frankfurt	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Paris	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Geneva	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Basel	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Brussels	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amsterdam	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Stockholm	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Copenhagen	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Helsinki	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Tokyo	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Singapore	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Bombay	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Calcutta	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
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Madras	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Delhi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Mumbai	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Jaipur	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Bhopal	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Varanasi	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Patna	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Dispur	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Guwahati	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Shillong	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Imphal	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Itanagar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Dehra Dun	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Roorkee	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Meerut	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Gurgaon	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Faridkot	1 month 1.4175-1.4180
Amritsar	1 month 1.4175-1.4180

## COMMODITIES

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## FAMILY MONEY/1

## The bond that's best for the retired

The new index-linked income bond introduced by National Savings this week is clearly aimed at the retired. It will pay an initial income of only 8 per cent (before tax) but income payments which are monthly will be increased at the end of the year in line with any increase in the Retail Price Index. However, it is important to note that only the income, not the capital, is index-linked.

The after-tax initial return, therefore, of only 6.6 per cent looks miserable compared with the gross 12 per cent - 9.4 after tax - obtainable on the existing issue of National Savings Income Bonds. Indeed, if you assume that inflation will run at an average of 5 per cent a year during the next 10 years it will not be until the 10th year that your income reaches the 12 per cent level on offer from the existing issue of income bonds.

The issue seems a curious exercise. "We are not trying to raise extra money from National Savings," was the comment from the Treasury. But if they are not why make a rod for their own back?

If the two products are to run alongside, the terms will have to be kept roughly comparable. If there is not to be a substantial amount of switching between the two whenever one looks more attractive than the other, and is a time of low inflation the right moment to launch an index-linked product? About the only point in the new income bond's favour is that the return is guaranteed and will not vary like the existing income bond. With a minimum investment of £5,000, this is a product that most people can afford to ignore at least until inflation looks more of a threat.

## A wary eye on inheritance trusts

Artificial schemes for avoiding Capital Transfer Tax come in for some harsh words from accountants Dearden Farrow. "There are no cure-all arrangements by which a potential liability to capital transfer tax can be instantly conjured away, and any schemes which purport to do this should be avoided," the Inland Revenue is attacking them and will almost certainly win," says Dearden Farrow's latest booklet on estate planning.

The booklet looks in detail at inheritance trusts and whether or not they work. It also advises people to take independent advice and to shop around. Copies of the booklet, A Capital Idea, are available free from the Publications Department, Dearden Farrow, 1 Serle's Inn, London EC4Y 1JD (01-353 2000).

## Inexpert advice

Investment advisers who put their clients into cash funds with a front-end charge of 5 per cent are heavily criticised by broker Peter Hargreaves of Hargreaves Lansdown. Mr Hargreaves said: "If the adviser does not believe the client should be in the market, then why put him into cash through a bond? We would much prefer to say to the client, 'We do not think, say 20 per cent, of your capital should be in the market at the moment and therefore we would suggest you keep it in a very easily realisable form in a Post Office National Savings Investment Account, one of the higher interest bank deposit accounts, or the building society.'"

"No client should look to having his capital invested in a cash fund inside an investment bond."

## Words of economy

How can you buy half-price theatre tickets, cut your home contents insurance by 80 per cent, save up to 2.5 per cent on your overdraft and reduce school fees by 40 per cent? The answers are to be found in 100 Money Saving Ideas, a small booklet that would make a useful stocking-filler for the financially minded. The booklet is written by a financial journalist, Rosemary Burr, costs £2 and is available post-free from Rosemary Ltd, 60 Watbeck Street, London W1, or from branches of W. H. Smith and other bookshops.

## Making it easy

A new scheme to stimulate direct investment in equities was put forward this week by John Kay, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Mr Kay proposes that individuals should be able to invest up to £250 a month in qualified accounts with banks and building societies. Tax relief would be given automatically, as under MIRAS (Mortgage Interest Relief at Source), so that the net cost to a basic rate taxpayer would be £25 for every £250 saved.

The accumulated balances could be left to earn interest or to purchase quoted securities or authorised unit trusts. Dividends would automatically be paid to the qualified account, the securities could be sold at any time, and the proceeds returned to the account. Tax at 30 per cent would be deducted for any withdrawals from the account. "The scheme would be linked closely with moves to extend personal pension provision for those outside occupational schemes," said Mr Kay. He estimates the cost at £200 million in the first year - part of this cost should be delayed by using real capital gains by individuals, and corporations, as income.



Are you having trouble with the Inland Revenue? You are not alone. The problem has become so acute that the accountants, Spicer and Pegler, have formed a national tax investigation unit to specialize in advising businesses and individuals who are subjected to tax investigations.

"The Inland Revenue is now re-directing staff into investigation work and the number of investigations by tax offices, and the enquiry branch of the Revenue has increased by 75 per cent in the past five years," explains Mike Reader, who will head Spicer and Pegler's new unit. "The list of people and items coming under Revenue scrutiny is growing all the time."

Mr Reader mentions specifically cash traders such as corner shops, and spurious claims to self-employment in the fields of insurance, computer consultancy, farmers and kitchen designers. For PAYE employees and directors he highlights the fact that free newspapers, boardroom lunches, flats in town, weekend cottages, wives travelling with husbands on company business, incentive prizes and free car parking are all coming under close scrutiny from the Revenue.

Above: The team consists of (from left) Martyn Bridges, Alan Redden, Mr Reader and Melvyn Rowbottom.

In the meantime Employers' Protection is offering legal fees cover up to £100,000 per claim and up to £1 million in anyone year for a premium based on turnover (minimum £250 a year). Details from the Legal Protection Group, 31-35 St. Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1JB. (01-561 1491).

## Timber cover

Guarantees are only as good as the company that gives them - so if the company that treats your woodwork goes out of business six months before you discover that the treatment has not worked, you will have to pay again for someone else to come in. However, if you use a firm which is a member of the Guaranteed Treatments Protection Trust, for £5 you can get insurance cover which will pay up in the event that the contractor goes bust and you have to hire someone else. Registration of a property costs the owner a one-off

payment of £5 for cover of 20 years. For a further £5 premium it also provides cover for contractors who carry out chemical damp course work.

The scheme is underwritten by Aegon (UK) Ltd and Skandia Insurance. Anyone contemplating wood treatment or a chemical damp course should contact the Guaranteed Treatments Protection Trust Ltd, PO Box 77, 27 London Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP11 1BW (High Wycombe 447049).

## Choice for drivers

Motorists with policies issued by Commercial Union will be well advised to shop around for alternatives as premiums are going up by 8 per cent from January 1. "Within the average rise there are some reductions - for example, some areas in the West Country have been moved into a lower rated district, and third party fire and theft cover will show a less than average rise over most of the country," says John Carter, general manager of Commercial Union's UK division.

Motorists can obtain competitive quotes from the Automobile Association's computerized motor insurance service. Similar computerized quotation services are operated by insurance brokers who take the Quotal Service, NatWest Insurance Services and Royal Bank of Scotland. All work on the basis of monitoring all Motor policies available in the market, so you should get a really competitive quote.

## Explaining benefits

Two booklets from Age Concern explain issues involved in the proposed reform of various aspects of the supplementary benefit system. *Protect Today's Pensioners* deals with the Death Grant, supplementary pensions and housing benefit. David Holman, director of Age Concern, believes that "those most in need are likely to be worse off under the new system". *Protect Tomorrow's Pensioners* explains how the abolition of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme will affect all women under 45 and men over 50. "Today's pensioners are among the poorest in Europe. Future pensions will be not better off if SERPS is abolished. Women, the long-term unemployed and disabled people will be especially hard hit," says Mr Holman. Copies of the two booklets are available free for small quantities from the Public Relations Department, Age Concern England, 60 Piccadilly Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3LL.

## Purchasing pitfalls

Buying a home can be a minefield, according to SHAC (The London House Aid Centre). "Not only are there more

mortgage schemes than ever before, but people run much greater risks of financial difficulties and losing their homes," says SHAC. To help the uninformed to avoid the worst mistakes, SHAC has produced a book called *Buying A Home*. It highlights the many hidden and unexpected costs people face, such as insurance, repair costs and rentitions.

The book is available, price £1.70, from SHAC, 188a Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0AR.

## Spoiled for choice

A clutch of new unit trusts are on offer this week providing the investor with an ever more bewildering range of choice.

Specialist of the bunch is Rothschild's New Court Smaller Australasian Companies fund which will invest in a wide range of smaller companies - generally avoiding mining and heavy industries. "We have a limit in terms of market capitalization of £100 million. In New Zealand this would include almost all publicly quoted companies except the top dozen but in Australia it really will mean the smaller companies. We are not limiting ourselves to any particular sector or area," says Nicolas McAndrew of Rothschild Asset Management.

He expects to invest in companies in the financial services, retailing, high technology, light industry and transportation sectors, as well as businesses associated with agriculture. "The fund won't invest a specific proportion of its assets in each country. Individual stock selection will take priority. A wide spread of investments will be held but substantial stakes will be taken in companies where growth potential looks attractive," says Mr McAndrew.

However, technical difficulties mean that it will be some time yet before this becomes reality. The Interchangeable Visa-Eurocard-Mastercard system in banks and shops should, however, be completely in effect by the end of this year. The main difficulty lies in informing all outlets already accepting one of these credit cards that they may now accept all three.



Don't worry - one is for your operation and this one is for when you get our bill!

## The plastic passports to shops galore

As from this week a new interchangeable credit card system will mean that foreigners travelling in France, holding either Visa, Eurocard or Mastercard, will be able to use their cards over a wider range of outlets, with obvious advantages to the holder.

Agreement has been reached between the National Banking Group, linked to Visa, and Eurocard and Mastercard, whereby each may use the other's facilities. Shops and commercial enterprises which already accept one of these three cards will now accept any of the three.

A new display logo to the effect will depict the letters CB - standing for Carte Bancaire - which is the name of the new overall national card to be issued to French people as their Visa, Eurocard or Mastercard expires.

Likewise, the holders of any of these three international cards may make use of any bank in France which accepts one or more of them. In theory, the interchangeable system should also apply to the automatic cash dispensing machines outside banks.

Negotiations between the two banking groups to reach this agreement have lasted all year, but many commercial enterprises are complaining they have not been sufficiently informed as to these changes.

# Five reasons for investing in the new Henderson Global Income and Growth Trust.

Since the lifting of UK exchange control regulations it has made good sense for every prudent investor to put a part of his or her capital overseas. The performance of shares in international stockmarkets has rewarded investors with consistent, long-term capital growth.

But it is a well established fact that for those people who need a regular income from their investment the opportunities overseas have been somewhat limited.

Henderson believe there are now excellent opportunities for obtaining a higher yield from international investments. The new Henderson Global Income and Growth Trust is being launched to make these opportunities available to UK investors.

The objective of this new trust is to achieve a high and rising income with a measure of capital appreciation. The estimated initial gross yield will be 5.5% p.a. paid in two half-yearly instalments.

Since the price of units in a unit trust and the income from them can go down as well as up, it is of course impossible to make firm promises about future performance. But the potential is well illustrated by the performance of other unit trusts managed by Henderson.

When we took over the management of the Henderson Income and Growth Trust in 1980 an investment of £1,000 then would have yielded a gross income in 1981 of £99. In 1985 income would have risen to £161 and the capital value of the investment would now be £3,305 (offer to bid basis).

Henderson successfully manage £3 billion of investor's funds and are

1. A stake in the world's leading stockmarkets.

2. A high level of income (5.5% p.a. estimated gross initial yield).

3. The potential for capital growth.

4. Managed by a highly experienced team.

5. Fixed price offer of 50p per unit.

highly regarded as international investment managers, with 16 established unit trusts specialising in different world markets or sectors of the world economy and the track records of these trusts have often been spectacular.

Using Henderson's extensive experience of the world's leading stockmarkets, we plan to adopt an active management policy, adjusting the balance of the portfolio according to the prospects for each geographical area. Initially investments will be made in the USA (45%), Japan (10%), Hong Kong (5%), Europe (5%), as well as in the UK (30%). The portfolio will be made up partly of high yielding ordinary shares - especially those of major international companies and utilities and - partly of fixed interest shares.

Investing in the new trust couldn't be simpler. Until 29th November units are available at the fixed offer price of 50p each. All you have to do is complete the application form opposite, and return it together with your cheque either direct or through your professional adviser.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

An initial charge of 5 1/4% on the assets (equivalent to 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries; rates available on request.

An annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) on the value of the Trust will be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs with a provision in the Trust Deed to increase this to a maximum of 3% on giving 3 months written notice to unit holders.

Distribution of income will be paid on 13th February and 13th August, with the first payment on the 13th August 1986.

Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within eight weeks of payment. To sell units endorse your certificate and send it to the managers; payment based on the ruling bid price will normally be made within seven working days.

Unit Trusts are not subject to capital gains tax, moreover a unit holder will not pay this tax on a disposal of units unless his total realised gains from all sources in the tax year amount to more than £5,900 (1985/6). Prices and yields can be found daily in the Financial Times.

Trustee: Midland Bank Trust Co. Limited, 119 Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1AQ.  
Managers: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd, 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA (Registered Office).  
Registration Number: 856263 England.  
A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd, Dealing Dept, 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 1AA. Telephone: 01-638 5757.

I/We wish to invest £ (minimum £500) in Henderson Global Income and Growth Trust at the fixed price of 50p per unit and enclose a remittance payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited. If you wish to have net income reinvested please tick ☐

This offer will close 29th November 1985. After the close of this offer, units will be available at the daily quoted price. Joint applicants must sign and attach full names and addresses separately.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Forename(s) (in full) \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
My professional adviser is \_\_\_\_\_

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Henderson.  
The Investment Managers.

EXTRA-ORDINARY SHARES  
**IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL**  
with no loss of interest or penalty  
Effective 1st November 1985.

BALANCES £20,000 AND OVER	10.10%
BALANCES £2,000 - £19,999	9.60%
BALANCES £500 (minimum) - £1,999	9.25%

Not held and not paid (1) Certain Requirements to be met (see booklet, Compounded Annual Rate)  
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PRE-LAUNCH ANNOUNCEMENT  
**Aitken Hume**  
**UK**  
**General Fund**

Aitken Hume Funds (Management) Limited announces that it has applied to the Department of Trade and Industry for the authorisation of a new unit trust to be called Aitken Hume U.K. General Fund. The aim of the Fund is to provide above-average capital growth over the long term from a general portfolio of equities, with a pronounced emphasis on the U.K. stockmarket. A high income is not a priority, and the initial gross annual yield is expected to be about 5.50%. Reserve your pre-launch details now. Simply complete and return the coupon, and you will receive full details of the initial offer as soon as the Department of Trade and Industry has granted authorised status. Until that time, no application for investment can be accepted.

To: Aitken Hume Funds (Management) Limited,  
FREEPOST, EC1B 1PW. Tel: 01-638 6011

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

AITKEN HUME  
FUNDS (Management) LIMITED



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The most rewarding instant access, no-penalty account available from any major building society.

New Money Spinner Plus pays the highest rates of interest available in a 'no strings' investment from any national building society.

The minimum investment is £500 and a balance of £10,000 or more earns the highest rate of 9.55% net p.a.

You have instant access to money - with no penalties whatsoever. Interest is added annually in October or you can receive it as monthly income.

Enquire at any Northern Rock branch or write to us FREEPOST, Newcastle.

AMOUNT INVESTED	INTEREST P.A.*	GROSS P.A.†
£500 or more	9.05%	12.93%
£5,000 or more	9.30%	13.29%
£10,000 or more	9.55%	13.64%

\*The rate may vary. †Equivalent yield for basic rate taxpayers.

- ☐ INSTANT ACCESS.
- ☐ NO PENALTIES.
- ☐ MONTHLY INCOME OPTION.

Member of the Building Societies Association. Authorised for investment by Trustees. Branches and Agents throughout the U.K. Assets exceed £1,400 million.



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City of London Office: Stone House, 128/140 Bishopsgate EC2M 4HX. Telephone: 01-247 6861.  
Scottish Office: 27 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DN. Telephone: 031-296 3401.



## Loyalty, at the investor's cost

### UNIT TRUSTS

Changes are afoot in the unit trust industry which could seriously affect the quality of advice that investors are given.

Some intermediaries who manage portfolios of unit trusts for clients are asking for "loyalty bonuses" from the unit trust managers as an incentive not to switch clients out of one fund and into another.

"I have been approached on a number of occasions. The fact that it is not an isolated incident is what is so worrying," said Malcolm Weightman of GT Unit Managers. "I think it is just the intermediaries being greedy."

At the moment renewal commissions, as they are dubbed, are banned by the Unit Trust Association. When fund managers Arbutnot decided to pay renewal commissions to intermediaries who recommended their "umbrella" fund, they were obliged to leave the association.

Precisely what effect the demand for a loyalty bonus will have is difficult to judge, but one thing is certain - it will be the unit trust investor who has to pay one way or another.

"I don't think the margins to pay a loyalty bonus are there at the moment - we would have to increase our annual management charge," said Mr Weightman.

At the moment most fund managers charge around 0.5 to 1 per cent of the value of the fund as an annual management charge. If intermediaries were paid the 0.5 per cent loyalty bonus for which many of them seem to be asking, then annual management charges would probably rise.

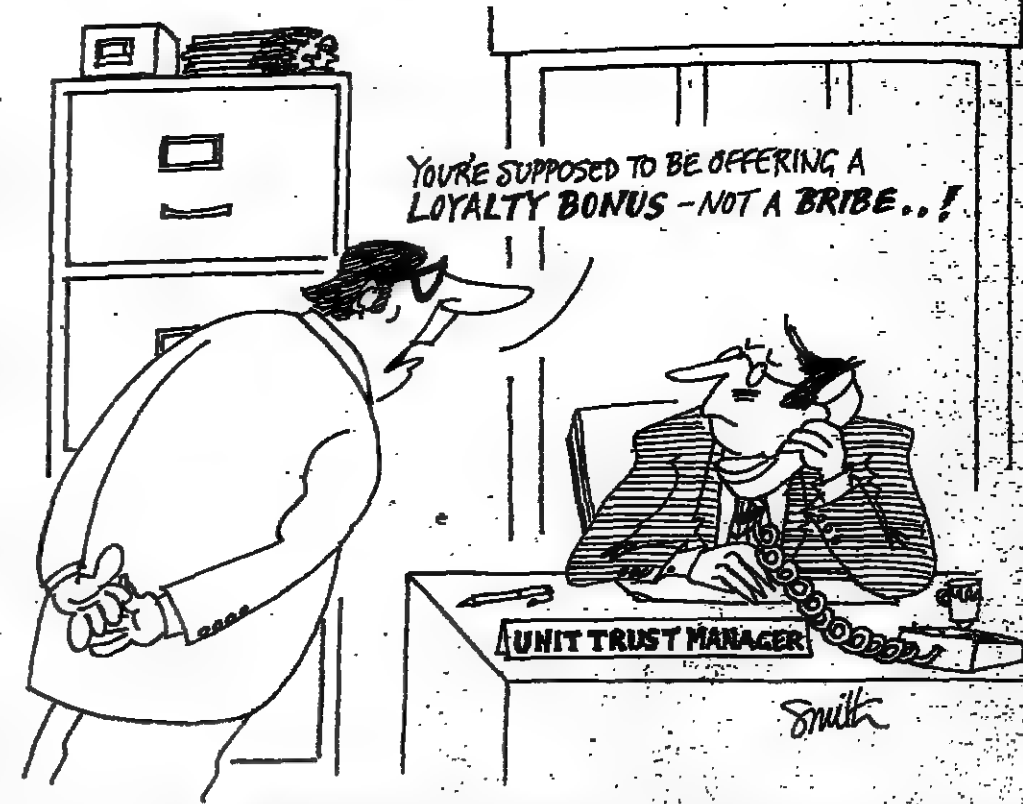
"It's true that investors don't seem to notice when you put up

### 'Flying in the face of convention'

annual management charges - but we would not want to do this," says Mr Weightman.

That view is echoed by Andrew Cherniavsky over at Prolific: "We would not think this a good idea. There is no means by which you could pay a loyalty bonus without flying in the face of convention."

"In any case, there should not be any artificial incentive for the intermediary managing a portfolio of unit trusts to hold on when he believes he should switch, or to sell when he believes he should retain the units."



At the moment it is arguable that there is an artificial incentive to switch clients out of one unit trust into another - the intermediary gets at least 1.25 per cent commission every time he does this.

However, if he switches for the sake of generating commission, the clients' portfolio performance is likely to suffer and this in many instances stops "churning" of portfolios.

The introduction of a loyalty bonus might, on the one hand, do away with any incentive to switch in order to generate commission. On the other hand, it could deter the intermediary from moving his clients out of a unit trust when he really felt that they should make a switch.

On top of this, many of the larger unit trust advisory services find that, effectively, they are locked into a trust. Their holding is significant enough for the managers to move the price of units against them to the point where switching becomes not worthwhile - hence the demand for a loyalty bonus.

One intermediary who did not wish to be identified said: "If you try to move £100,000 out of one trust and into

another the managers give you such a rotten price that you can't afford to make the move. In this situation why shouldn't we have a loyalty bonus?"

John Greener, of Richards Longstaff, which has one of the largest and longest established unit trust advisory services, believes intermediaries should be paid a "loyalty bonus". He would like to see a bonus of 0.2 per cent a year paid to encourage unit trust advisers not to switch unnecessarily.

But his firm already levies an annual management charge

### Some effectively pay the bonus already

based on the value of a client's portfolio.

Would it not be better if clients paid an increased fee but had all commission rebated to them? He argues: "That would be reasonably acceptable to some clients but others would not like it. It is far more efficient for people to have charges deducted through commissions."

The Unit Trust Association is reviewing all commissions and there are those within the industry who believe that sooner or later some unit trust

groups will start to pay renewal commission rather than lose the business.

But the question the debate raises is how impartial the advice you get from your unit trust adviser is.

The whole area is fraught with conflicts of interest. Some unit trust managers effectively pay a loyalty bonus already by the simple device of offering reciprocal business to their favoured intermediaries. "Buy our unit trust and we will put some of our share deals through your stockbroking firm" is a common back-scratching arrangement.

Perhaps the best way to make use of the unit trust portfolio management services is to place a relatively small sum of money with the adviser, in order to obtain his monthly bulletin and investment recommendations. Then deal on your own account.

This way you can be sure that you won't be penalized on price when you want to sell, and you should be able to negotiate a substantial discount when you buy because the unit trust manager has not had to pay initial commission to an intermediary.

Lorna Bourke

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but will be retained in the Fund and will be reflected in the price of units. The certificates will be issued on subscription by 30th April each year commencing 1987. Applications will be acknowledged by contract note and unit certificates will be posted approximately 6 weeks later. Units may be sold back at any time by telephoning the manager or by returning your request certificate. A cheque for the proceeds based on the bid price ruling at the time instructions are received will normally be sent within 10 days of receipt of the request certificate. Prices of units and shares are quoted in the national press. Commission is paid to recognised agents. You should remember that the price of units as well as the income can go down as well as up and that unit trusts should be regarded as a long term investment.

\*IMS Survey

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M&G SECOND	1,960	7,084	15,724
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Building Society Savings Account	1,491	3,832	7,192

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## FAMILY MONEY/3

## All in the interest of paying out

## INSURANCE

The giant life insurance industry has at last conceded that interest should be paid on claims where there is a delay between the date of death and the pay-out.

But Percy Richer, the South London solicitor who has conducted a one-man campaign on the subject, regards the new directive from the Association of British Insurers as only a partial victory.

The new clause in the statement of long-term insurance practice states that "when the payment of a claim is delayed more than two months the insurer will pay interest on the cash sum due, or make an equivalent adjustment to the sum unless the amount of such interest will be trivial".

The statement of practice has no legal standing but it is part of a document which is being agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry and will probably be put before the House of Commons in the form of a written answer in a matter of weeks.

"It's interesting to see that you can resist the lion by the tail," says Mr Richer. "But I think it is a bit niggardly. I don't see why the insurance companies should hold on to the interest for two months."

The inevitable delay between the death of an insured person and the pay-out is caused by having to get probate. Mr Richer estimates this takes three months on average.

And as a result the insurance companies have been holding on to about £12 million a year — the interest which should properly belong to the beneficiaries.

"This new stand will mean it will come down by a third to £8 million, but that's still a lot of money," says Mr Richer.

He argues that if a beneficiary could complete the formalities, he would be entitled to the proceeds of the policy within 24 hours of the death of the insured person, so the insurance company is obliged to hold that money in trust for him until such time as the probate work is completed.

But the insurance companies have always pointed out that policies undertake to pay out when they receive the documentation, not on death. And they say the level of premiums was worked out on the assumption that they would be able to hold the beneficiaries' money for

several months after the death. Mr Richer's campaign has been gradually wearing down the insurance companies' stand. His pleas on behalf of those who are "literally widows and orphans" have been heeded.

One of his earliest conquests was Lloyds Bank's Black Horse Life Assurance company which began paying interest from the date of death last summer.

"We were manoeuvred into it," said a company spokesman. "We were carrying out our contract to the letter, but now we may amend the contract to reflect our more generous practice."

The TSB was firmly set against paying interest on claims until the Association of British Insurers' change of stance became known in July. But from October 1 they fell in with the new industry standards and now pay interest after the two month delay.

The Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS), which is not a member of the Association of British Insurers, decided at the beginning of the year to pay interest from the date of death. "Our previous method leads to misunderstanding on the part of the public who consider, regardless of what the policy might say, that the policy moneys are due on the date of death," says a CIS spokesman.

Privately, some people within the insurance industry think the ABI policy is a shoddy compromise. If, in principle, it is right to pay interest on the money then many believe it should be paid from the outset of the claim, not after two months. But this is a minimum standard designed to drag the more backward companies in the wake of the front runners who are free to be as generous to beneficiaries as they like.

The degree of generosity as

after seven days, Abbey Life pays interest from day one on claims which take more than two months and no interest on those settled within two months, and Canada Life pays after one month's delay.

Guardian Royal Exchange has a split policy. All those policies taken out since last October can have interest paid on claims from the date of death but pre-existing policies will only be credited with interest after two months.

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The degree of generosity as far as the rate of interest is concerned also varies widely. Legal & General pays 12.5 per cent. GRE has been paying between 11.25 and 12 per cent this year and the TSB 10.75 per cent.

The ABI says interest should be paid "at the relevant market rate". But not all companies look to the money markets to establish their rates. Black Horse pays Lloyds Bank's deposit rate of 7.7 per cent and

"Madam, we are now in a position to pay out for your skipping-rope lost on the Titanic"

Equitable Life aligns its rate to Barclay's Seven-day rate, currently 8 per cent. Abbey Life does not pay a straight rate of interest but the difference in performance of its money fund between the two dates — about five per cent. But this has no tax deducted.

Most of the other funds deduct basic rate tax before handing over the interest, except Equitable Life which only deducts tax if the delay is more than a year.

If the recipients are non-taxpayers they can claim this tax using Form R 185.

All the problems over delayed pay-outs can be avoided, however, if policies are written "in trust" for a spouse or children. They effectively become the property of the beneficiary and are outside the deceased person's estate, so there is no need to get probate before the policy can be paid out.

But this can lead to difficulties — it will be difficult for the policy holder to use it during his lifetime as collateral and it will be difficult to vary the terms. If you are considering doing this you should consult a solicitor who will help you get the wording exactly right.

David Smith

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## Banks cash in on bigger loans

## MORTGAGES

The grip of the banks on the top end of the mortgage market appears to be tightening. In the three months to the end of September, 72 per cent of bank mortgage funds went on loans of over £30,000. The average bank advance was £32,400.

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Mortgage lending by the banks started ahead over the summer, gross lending rising to £1,473 million in the three months ending on September 30, compared with £926 million in the previous quarter.

Even so, the banks are dwarfed by the building societies in the mortgage market overall. Gross advances by the building societies in July, August and September totalled £6,804 million, 4.5 times the banks' total.

The building societies made nearly 300,000 separate mortgage loans, compared with 38,600 by the banks.

The typical bank mortgage is between £30,000 and £49,999 on a property with a purchase price in excess of £50,000. However, 26 per cent of bank mortgage funds go on loans in excess of £50,000.

David Smith

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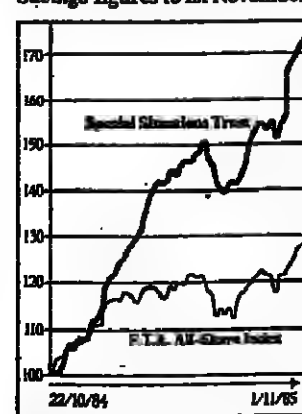
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Simon & Coates Fund Managers Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Simon & Coates, a member firm of The Stock Exchange. Formed over 30 years ago, the firm has steadily expanded to cover all major areas of the London Stock Market, providing a complete financial advice and management service for both private clients and pension and trust funds.

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In April 1985, Chase Manhattan, one of the world's largest commercial and investment banks, acquired a 29.9% holding in Simon & Coates — with the intention of taking full control as soon as Stock Exchange rules permit.

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**General information**

The Trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry and constituted by Trust Deed. Offer prices include an initial charge of 4% out of which the manager may, per commission in authorised agents. The present annual charge is 1% per annum plus VAT of the value of the fund, the company with the amount of 1.1% permitted by the trust deed.

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Prices and yields are published in *Financial Times*. The managers will send a report to unitholders at January and July. Income is distributed on 15th July each year.

The Trust is a Member of the Investment Committee of the Department of Trade and Industry. The Trust has not been registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 and the Trust has not been registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940. Accordingly, units may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, in the United States or to a United States person.

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## The trust that takes the tiniest charge

A unit trust with a minimum investment of £50,000 and a front-end charge of only 1.5 per cent, compared with the usual 5 per cent, is the unusual investment vehicle on offer to private clients of stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers.

"For some time we have thought that, for many individuals, holding a portfolio of individual shares is an inefficient and expensive method of investing," explains Fred Carr, a director of Capel Cure Myers.

"Unit trusts, however, tend to be regarded as far too impersonal and, for some reason we have never been able to fathom, have been thought of as only suitable for the small investor."

Mr Carr makes the point that the new unit trust will represent the core holdings that everyone ought to have in shares. But alongside runs a personalised share dealing service for those investors who want some individuality in their holdings or prefer to speculate a bit.

The new Master Portfolio Unit Trust will aim for medium-term to long-term capital growth through a relatively risk-averse investment policy. The underlying investments will be internationally spread to take account of the outlook for world economies and currencies.

Mr Carr points out that if an investor wants to change the composition of his share portfolio, capital gains tax is a factor which has to be taken into account and can adversely affect investment decisions, whereas a unit trust which pays no capital gains tax can alter the mix without incurring any CTG liability.

The individual's liability to CGT becomes a factor only when he eventually cashes in units.

Capel Cure Myers' existing unit trusts have been performing well with the Vanguard Special Situations and Vanguard High Yield both in the top 15 in the past 10 months, while they stand at first and second respectively in the two-year performance tables.

Investors other than CCM's private clients will be able to invest in the new Master Portfolio provided they can put up the minimum £50,000.

## Art, hotels and restaurants are hungry for cash

### BUSINESS EXPANSION

BES mania continues unabated with art, restaurants and hotels for the homeless being the latest ideas for attracting investors' money.

City Fine Art is looking for £1.5 million to enable the company to deal in British 19th- and 20th-century marine and landscape oil paintings. Joint managing directors of the company will be Roger and Jill Hadlee, who have been running their own art gallery and dealing in marine paintings and watercolours through their company - the Royal Exchange Gallery - for the past 11 years.

City Fine Art and the Royal Exchange Gallery will operate alongside each other, sharing the overheads and running expenses of the gallery.

These are fairly modest in the context of the money being raised - in the region of £60,000 per annum, according to Mr Hadlee.

The track record of the executive directors is clearly a very important criterion for potential investors to consider, given that the project depends almost entirely on their expertise in this highly specialized field. The Hadlees appear to have the right credentials: they established the Royal Exchange Gallery in 1974 with the grand sum of £192 and bank borrowings of £20,000. Since then they have made a profit in every year of trading bar one, and turnover for this year is likely to be in the region of £300,000.

Walker Bagshawe is a variation on a theme: the company will primarily deal in fine art (concentrating on the work of British artists from the Edwardian period), and offer ancillary services such as restoration and framing. It has acquired premises and already started trading.

The directors who will be involved in the day-to-day running of the business are Caryl Walker and Nicholas Bagshawe, who have operated a partnership in the same field since 1979. According to sponsors Douglas Deakin Young the partners traded from home, acting for a number of substantial clients.

It is worth noting that the directors have put £50,000 of



Judith Chalmers and Neil Macfarlane, non-executive directors of Chelsea Hotels

their own money into the company, paying the same price for their ordinary shares as outside shareholders. Also the issue expenses have been kept low - these are 4.3 per cent of the maximum subscription level or 9.75 per cent assuming that only the minimum level is reached.

There are two ways in which the value of outside shareholders' investments will be diluted. First, if the net asset value of the company increases by more than 27.6 per cent after five years, the directors get one fifth of any increase over and above this amount. This is, however, not an unusual pay-off designed as a performance incentive.

Secondly, Douglas Deakin Young has an option to acquire 10 per cent of the ordinary share capital of the company at £1 per share - as this option lasts for six years from the closure of subscriptions, its mere existence will dilute the value of outside shareholders' investments when and if they come to realize them after five years.

Two Johnson Fry-sponsored schemes launched this week - Park Hotels and Chelsea Restaurants - also contain options in favour of the sponsors. But the sponsors' options will not have such a substantial effect on the value of outside shareholders' interests as the Walker Bagshawe BES. The sponsors Johnson Fry are entitled to only

Company/Fund name	Sponsor	Minimum Investment	Closing date
Fine Country Homes PLC (holiday homes)	Anthony Weller 01-377 1010 London Venture Capital	£2,000	November 12, 1985
Art focus (art magazine)	Motil Limited 01-829 5983	£250	November 13, 1985
The Weiss Gallery (art dealers)	W Greenwell & Co 01-236 2040 Savory Miln 01-6381212	£2,000	November 14, 1985
Industrial Tech Fd	Baden-Powell, Chillico 01-628 2040 Anderson & Co 01-6381200	£2,000	November 15, 1985
Winebank	Guidhouse Gp 01-806 6321	£1,150	November 21, 1985
Paramount Wines	Guidhouse Gp 01-806 6321	£750	November 22, 1985
David Charles Publis PLC (book publication)	Baynard Securities 01-236 6224 London & Sussex Securities 01-828 2453	£500	November 22, 1985
Telecard Hldgs PLC (electronic shopping)	Fielding Newson-Smith 01-505 7711 Granville & Co 01-621 1212	£1,000	November 27, 1985
Investors News letter PLC	Reed Stenhouse 01-628 8011	£2,500	November 28, 1985
Newmarket Broaders (Racehorse stud)	Capital for Cos 0532 439043	£1,000	November 29, 1985
English & Continental Porcelain PLC	Douglas Deakin Young 01-838 2718	£1,500	November 29, 1985
The Wellington Fund II (non-authorised unit trust)	Johnson Fry 01-498 5068 LET financial 01-561 1522	£3,000	December 5, 1985
Capital for Cos 3rd BEF (investment in unquoted cos)	Minster Trust 01-498 5068	£500	December 9, 1985
Walker Bagshawe PLC (fine art)	Chancery Corp Ser 01-242 2583	£1,000	December 10, 1985
Park Hotels PLC	Granville & Co 01-621 1212	£3,000	December 13, 1985
Riverside Racquet Centre (Leisure centre)	Northcote & Co 01-628 8121	£500	December 17, 1985
City Fine Art PLC	Capital Ventures 0242 584380	£1,500	December 20, 1985
Chelsea Restaurants PLC	Capital Ventures 0242 584380	£1,000	December 20, 1985
Gladding Secured Contrs PLC (Building Prop Develop)	Capital Ventures 0242 584380	£1,000	December 20, 1985
Stapleford Pk PLC (Hotel)	Guidhouse Group 01-806 6321	£2,500	March 31, 1986
Addison Vintners PLC	01-806 6321	£2,500	open ended
The Capital Inn Fund (public houses)	021-233 3404	£2,500	open ended
The Cave 1985/88 Fund (Investment in unquoted cos)	0532 29185	£2,500	open ended
Mercia Venture Capital	0272 755690	£2,500	open ended
East Mercia Venture Capital	0803 862271	£2,500	open ended
Western Venture Capital			
South Western Capital			

Research: Susan Proud, The Times

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The Times - Saturday 30th January 1985

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The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 17th March 1984

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Money Management - June 1984

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The Daily Telegraph - Saturday 31st December 1983

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## FAMILY MONEY/5

## How divorce tears apart a legacy

## WILLS

Newspaper headlines such as "George Brown's Mistress is Snubbed in Will" and "The George Brown Legacy - all to Sophie" heralded the publication of the former deputy Labour Party leader's will.

The reason for the somewhat unusual media interest was that Lord George Brown left his whole estate worth £81,436 gross to his widow, even though he had spent the last two years of his life living with another woman.

He had made his will in 1969, leaving his entire estate to his wife. They separated two years ago, but he had not made a new will.

If you marry or remarry you should always make a new will as your old will automatically becomes invalid. Unless you make a new will, you die intestate and the law will decide how your assets will be distributed.

If you separate, as in the case of Lord and Lady George Brown, this has no legal effect whatsoever on your will. You may have lived apart for many years, but if your will provides for all your estate to go to your spouse, that is exactly what will happen.

But on divorce, under the Administration of Justice Act, 1982, your ex-spouse is automatically cut out of your will unless you state specifically that he or she should benefit. Similarly, if you have made your former spouse an executor, that appointment will cease to have effect.

The validity of the will as a whole, however, is not affected. For example, if a husband has inherited a legacy in favour of his children, that legacy will remain effective even though the parents' marriage has been dissolved. Solicitors advocate making a new will on divorce to save confusion and difficulties.

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Lord George Brown

financially independent of each other. The Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act, 1984 endorsed "the clean-break principle", and the courts are now encouraged to make orders which enable the parties to become self-sufficient.

How does this financial independence affect claims under the 1975 Act? The first reported case involving an application by a former spouse was in 1981, but it does illustrate the present-day outlook of the courts.

In this case a husband and wife had their marriage dissolved and when it came to a division of the capital and income a "clean break order" was made. The husband subsequently remarried and made a will leaving everything to his second wife.

When he died, the former wife made an application under the 1975 Act. Predictably she failed. On looking at the terms of the financial settlement on divorce it was quite apparent to the court that the parties could live financially independent of each other and the former wife had no claim on her ex-husband's estate.

When representing husbands in divorce proceedings, many solicitors are now insisting that a specific provision is inserted in the court order forbidding the ex-wife to make an application under the 1975 Act on the husband's death.

As part of the financial package, ex-wives often agree to this, particularly if the husband can be made to take out a life policy to mature on his death.

What happens, however, if the wife does not agree to her rights against his estate being taken away? It is not uncommonly realized that under the 1984 divorce legislation, provided that the court considers it just, it can impose such a restriction even if the wife does not consent. The court can now bar your application.

If you have been divorced for some time it may be that neither the court nor the solicitors inserted such a provision in the financial settlement. As a result, it is fairly common practice for a written statement to be signed by an ex-husband when he makes his will. The statement says specifically that he is leaving no benefit for his former wife and gives the reasons for his action. These statements are admissible in proceedings under the 1975 Act, but whether the court will have regard to them depends on the facts.

Whatever claim is made under the Act and whatever evidence is produced to dispute it, the decision of the courts in these cases is extremely difficult to predict.

Martin Thurston, a London lawyer specializing in inheritance matters, says: "When drafting a will I try to assess the strength of any claim that may be made on the estate."

"Some ex-husbands will try to make reasonable provision for the first wife in their will in the hope of warding off any later applications. Others decide to make no provision and take a chance that either the ex-wife remarries, dies or is unaware of her rights."

Susan Fieldman

## Marriage with profits from the Revenue

## TAXATION

Marriage can be a tax blessing for some. For others, it can be a tax nightmare. You could pay more tax or you could pay less. It depends on the size and type of your income.

Before marriage, tax is usually fairly simple. Both husband and wife deal with their own tax affairs and receive the single person's allowance to set against income. For the 1985/86 tax year, this allowance of £2,410 in total for a man and woman before marrying.

Marriage brings two changes in the way income is taxed. The first change means higher tax allowances, totalling £5,660. This occurs because you can claim different personal allowances. Instead of two single persons allowances, the husband will be able to claim the higher married man's allowance (£3,455 in 1985/86 tax year) as well as the wife's earnings allowance (£2,205 in the current tax year).

The effect of these higher tax allowances means, for many, lower tax bills. You can earn an extra £1,250 free of tax, which is a tax saving of up to £375.

The second change is that the taxman normally treats husband and wife as one person, although this doesn't usually apply in the tax year in which you marry. Treating husband and wife as one means lumping both incomes together.

Adding together the two incomes increases the chances of paying higher rates of tax on your income as a married couple. This happens in the current tax year when combined taxable income is over £16,200. Your actual income would be over £21,860 before higher rate taxes apply because you would be entitled to personal tax allowances totalling £5,660. The figure would be higher if you have a mortgage.

Before you marry, you can each have taxable income up to £16,200 before you pay higher rates tax. At what level of income is the effect of higher rate tax allowances cancelled by the effect of higher tax rates? This happens once the extra tax at higher rates is more than £375, in the current tax year. This could apply to you if your joint incomes are more than £25,360 for 1985/86.

The exact figure for you depends on what other allowances and outgoings you have. Example 1 shows the tax bill for one couple. As you can see, simply as a result of being married the couple pay over £1,000 more in tax.

There is something you may be able to do about it. Your taxman will allow you to opt for separate taxation (not to be confused with separate assessment).

Choosing to be taxed separately means that your tax position will return nearly to the state it was before you chose to marry.

The only exception is investment income. Whatever arrangements you make, investment income always counts as the husband's.

Opting to be taxed separately means that a couple's earned incomes are no longer lumped together by the taxman, so incurring higher rates of tax. It also means that the husband no longer claims the higher married man's allowance.

Example 2 shows the effect for a couple who choose to be taxed separately (the same couple as in Example 1). This couple can save over £1,000.

Sara Williams

## EXAMPLE 1: THE EFFECT OF MARRIAGE

Nicholas Parker earns £20,000. He is also provided with a company car (taxable value £825) and he has investment income of £1,500. He makes outgoings (payments which qualify for tax relief) of £900. His wife, Gemma, earns £12,000 and has investment income of £300.

Their tax bill is:

Earned income:	Nicholas	£20,825
	Gemma	12,000
Investment income		1,800
		<b>£34,625</b>
Less outgoings		£900
Married man's allowance		3,455
wife's earned income		2,205
		<b>£28,065</b>
Leaves taxable income of		
Tax on the first £16,200 at 30 per cent		£4,860
Tax on the next £3,000 at 40 per cent		1,200
Tax on next £3,200 at 45 per cent		2,340
Tax on remaining £3,665 at 50 per cent		1,832

Married their tax bill is £10,232 if Nicholas and Gemma were unmarried individual tax bills would be as follows:

Nicholas: earned income	£20,825
investment income	1,500
	<b>£22,325</b>
Less outgoings	£900
Single person's allowance	2,205
	<b>£3,105</b>

Leaves taxable income of £19,220 gives a tax bill of £6,069

Gemma: earned income	£12,000
investment income	300
	<b>£12,300</b>
Less single person's allowance	2,205

Leaves a taxable income of £10,095 Gives a tax bill of £3,028

Unmarried, their tax bills would come to £9,097

## EXAMPLE 2: THE EFFECT OF CHOOSING SEPARATE TAXATION

Nicholas and Gemma Parker - see example 1 - work out their new tax bill.

Nicholas: earned income £20,825 investment income (including Gemma's) 1,800

Less outgoings £900

Single person's allowance 2,205

Leaves taxable income of: £19,520

Tax on first £16,200 at 30 per cent £4,860

Tax on first £3,000 at 40 per cent 1,200

Tax on remaining £320 at 45 per cent 144

Tax bill: £6,204

Gemma: Earned income £12,000

Less single person's allowance 2,205

Leaves taxable income of: £9,795

Tax on this at 30 per cent: £2,938

Total tax bill: £9,142

The tax saving from choosing separate taxation: £10,232 - £9,142 = £1,090

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5 Falling corporation tax

For tax reasons, it has not been possible until quite recently to invest in a specialist North American unit trust that provides a reasonable level of income. However, as a result of recent tax changes, income-conscious investors can now benefit from restructuring their portfolios to include such a trust.

6 Currency management

The Managers will constantly review currency movements and it is expected that initially around 70% of the fund will be 'hedged' against further dollar weakness.

HOW TO INVEST

Simply complete the coupon and return it with your cheque made payable to Prolific Unit Trusts.

Units will remain on offer at a fixed price of 50p per unit until 22nd November, 1985.

Please remember that the price of your units and the income from them can go down as well as up, particularly over the short term.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Prices, yield and distribution dates. Unit prices will be calculated daily and both the prices and the yield will be quoted each day in the national press.

Income net of basic rate tax will be distributed half-yearly on 7th March and 7th September with the first distribution on 7th March 1986.

Management charges. An initial charge of 5% will be included in the offer price of units. The annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) will be deducted from the income of the fund, but may be increased to a maximum of 1.5% at 3 months' notice to unitholders.

To sell your units. Units can be sold back to the Managers on any business day at the bid price ruling on receipt of your instructions. Payment will usually be made within 10 working days of receipt of your completed instructions.

Trustee. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

Managers. Prolific Unit Trusts, 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4BS. Telephone: 01-357 7554.

Prolific Unit Trusts is the trading name of Prolific Life Investment Company Limited.

Registered in England No. 03468.

Registered office: Stramington, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BE.

\*Source: Money Management. Figures to 10/85 offer to bid, with net income reinvested.

Indeed it is significant that many U.S. companies have been heavy buyers of their own shares.

4 A skilfully balanced portfolio

Initially, around 80% of the portfolio will be invested in ordinary shares and convertibles, the latter being an excellent way of including high growth companies, whilst maintaining a reasonable income.

The remainder will comprise high-yielding fixed interest securities. This will allow the Managers to invest the bulk of the Trust in a broad range of good quality, but often lower-yielding, ordinary shares which offer particularly good prospects of future growth.

The Managers may, from time to time, also invest in traded options.

3 An initial income of around 5% gross and excellent growth prospects

The aim of the Prolific American Income Unit Trust is to produce a high and rising income together with capital growth, mainly from U.S. equities and convertible stocks.

The Managers will invest across a spectrum of companies operating in key sectors including banks, oils and utilities, cyclical growth sectors such as chemicals, and a range of high growth industries, including technology.

They will also seek to invest in companies which will not only provide the Trust with a good immediate income, but which also - through increasing profits - should generate substantial dividend increases in the future.

Although the Trust's investments will be heavily concentrated in the U.S., a small proportion of the fund will usually be in Canadian companies.

2 Prolific has proven investment expertise in the North American markets

If you had invested £1,000 in our existing Prolific North American Unit Trust three years ago (launched 1.2.82), your holding would now be worth £1,731, compared with £1,557 achieved by the average North American trust.

1 Market prospects

The outlook for the North American markets is excellent - see centre panel.

\*The American economy continues to enjoy a healthy rate of growth and the outlook for corporate profitability is improving.

\*The recent fall in the dollar has increased export competitiveness and should result in a significant boost to profits.

\*Interest rates have dropped sharply and, with inflation remaining low, further falls are likely.

\*Despite this positive background Wall Street has lagged behind other world markets (see chart above) and is now attractively valued against them.

Indeed it is significant that many U.S. companies have been heavy buyers of their own shares.

Performance index of 100 at 1/1/82. Source: Datastream.

170

160

150

140

130

120

110

100

1983

1984

1985

FT 100 SHARE INDEX, U.S. - NYSE-DOW AVERAGE, JAPAN - DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS, U.S.

Performance index of 100 at 1/1/82. Source: Datastream.

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1985

FT 100 SHARE INDEX, U.S. - NYSE-DOW AVERAGE, JAPAN - DOW JONES INDUSTRIALS, U.S.



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## PENSIONS/1

**Sell up,  
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and then  
cash in**

## PROPERTY

Family Money readers who have shown considerable interest in the past in house reversion schemes as a source of income for the over-70s will be interested to hear of a new one being set up by a firm of Edinburgh-based insurance brokers.

David Fitton, managing director of Capital & County brokers, is launching this week a scheme whereby elderly house owners can sell their property to realize the capital, while remaining as sitting tenants at a peppercorn rent.

It is, of course, normal that a property sold with a sitting tenant will realize only about half of its market value. However, Capital & County believes that such property will make an attractive investment to people going abroad to work for some years, or indeed for anyone with money to invest who can risk tying it up for a (necessarily) indefinite period.

Solicitors involved in the sale of such property are advised to ensure that no relatives of the reader have any claim on the property, and Capital & County is very aware of the need to ensure that an elderly person seeking advice is competent to make a decision.

Capital & County would then, naturally, hope to be entrusted with the arrangements for investing the lump sum received.

Given the example of a widow in her early 70s who raised £30,000 from the sale of her home, Capital & County suggested keeping £3,000-£4,000 in a building society account for immediate expenses, and putting the remainder into an annuity to provide a guaranteed income, with the proviso that if the widow's health was poor an investment bond might prove better value.

Details from Capital & County Insurance Brokers, 41a Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HH, (031-225 3413).

LB

## FAMILY MONEY/6

## Free to choose - that's ideal

Confirmation that we should soon all be able to make our own arrangements for pensions came in the Queen's speech this week - though details of how the new provisions will work have not yet been agreed.

A major problem still stands in the way of the best intentions to give us all greater freedom of choice on where our pension money is invested - the fact that company pension schemes are limited in the amount of pension they can pay out, while personal pension plans are limited in the amount of money that can be paid in.

Until this basic difference is ironed out, which entails major changes in pensions legislation, freedom of movement between the two looks some way off.

Only self-employed and employees in non-pensionable employment have any real freedom of choice. If you belong to a company pension scheme you are not eligible for tax relief on contributions to a personal pension plan. For those eligible, the range of choice can be bewildering.

First, you have to decide whether you want a traditional with-profits type contract or a unit-linked version. Then you have the option of making regular monthly contributions or single lump sum payments.

The usual advice is to go for the conservative with-profits type initially - topping up with a more volatile unit-linked one when you can afford to increase payments.

The performance tables show that in rising markets, the best unit-linked policies outperform with-profits by a considerable margin.

During the past 10 years, for example, (a period of almost constantly rising share prices), a £500 a year investment in Barclays General Unit Linked Pension Plan would have produced an accumulated cash fund of more than £30,000 compared with only £14,807 from Scottish Widows, the top performing with-profits contract. But this is not typical.

Performance statistics that commence from 1975 will tend to look good because in the previous year the stock market had taken its biggest ever

tumble, and so calculations start from a low base line.

A unit-linked contract directly reflects the value of the underlying investments. In much the same way as an investment in a unit trust. The traditional with-profits pensions contract operates like its life assurance counterpart, with bonuses being added each year plus a final bonus on top when the contract matures.

Inevitably, the with-profits fund managers hold back some of the profits in the good years in order to be able to pay a bonus during the bad years. You get a more even but less spectacular performance.

The drawback with a unit-linked contract is that if share prices are depressed in the year in which you intend to retire you might have to defer

**Contributions can be switched between funds**

retirement until such time as share prices recover, or defer taking the unit-linked part of your pension - a good idea is to have a with-profits contract as a standby. Most unit-linked policies, however, are flexible as to when benefits are taken.

If you decide to go for the unit-linked policy you will need professional advice, because most plans offer a range of funds from which to choose, and you can also switch contributions between funds.

Perhaps the only guide to future performance is how well the pension plan has done in the past.

Equitable Life's record on with-profits is remarkable, having been in the top four for the past six years. The Prudential also shows an enviable track record for consistently good performances, along with National Provident Institution (NPI), Provident Mutual and Equity & Law. As the table shows, all have been placed in the top 10 every year for the past six years.

Tax relief on contributions to a personal pension plan of up to 17.5 per cent of your net relevant earnings is available, provided you do not belong to a company pension scheme.

LE

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9th November 1985

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NOVEMBER 15th 1985

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**NPI**

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This advertisement does not constitute an offer or invitation to subscribe for or purchase securities. Applications for shares will only be accepted on the terms and conditions of the prospectus and the offer of the company and the offer of the company are contained, and on completion of the application form attached thereto.

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## Millions may be needing advice

The Occupational Pensions Advisory Service, a charity set up two and a half years ago to help those at odds with their pension scheme, is predicting that "many thousands, if not millions, of people are likely to ask for advice on the introduction of the Government's proposals".

But OPAS does not want to take on the role of a Pensions Ombudsman or give generalized help to "members of pensions schemes".

"An Ombudsman has the power to investigate maladministration, but what we do goes wider", says OPAS chairman Margaret Grainger.

It is not an arbitration between just two parties, there is the member complaining, the other scheme members, the trustees and the employer. Often it is the use of the trustees discretion which is the problem, but you cannot put a point of discretion to arbitration.

OPAS is funded by voluntary donations, mostly from large companies and has a network of 130 unpaid advisers who can be contacted through local Citizens' Advice Bureaux. As part of its charitable status it has to confine itself to the elderly or those in need rather than those who could afford to consult a solicitor.

Last year OPAS handled over 600 requests for help, the vast majority over the problems of early leavers suffering pension penalties. And in the first six months of this year it dealt with 400 queries - and these are all people who have first tried to resolve their difficulties with the pension administrators. Others have mistakenly believed that proposals not yet implemented were already in force.

In evidence sent last week to social services secretary Norman Fowler, who is expected to present his much delayed White Paper outlining pension plans, OPAS says that either the DHSS, or the Occupational Pensions Board should produce an explanatory leaflet for employees.

"Unfortunately, it is certain that many employees will be unable to obtain any useful advice from their place of work and we feel the leaflet should then explain how further advice might be obtained."

"If, as seems likely, insurance salesmen and brokers are to be licensed, we suggest that in each area there should be a published list of those who have been licensed and who are practicing in the locality," says OPAS.

### Statutory protection is also needed

But OPAS is concerned that the proposed freedom to manage their own pension contributions is too onerous for millions of workers.

In evidence to the Marketing of Investments Board Organisations Committee (MIBOC), OPAS says that if the proposal to require employees to invest at least four per cent of earnings towards their pension becomes law then about two million people will be deprived of paternalistic protection.

"People who have no understanding and may well lack the application, intelligence and skill to acquire it, will be forced to choose some form of investment and will be the more vulnerable to improper pressures. In this field at least it will no longer be possible to argue 'careless employer'."

But while OPAS believes in self-regulation for the pensions industry, it concedes that there is a need for some statutory protection.

In particular, it would like to see a statutory minimum guaranteed non-profit benefit payable to all those who contribute the minimum four per cent of earnings.

The Insurance Ombudsman provides a forum for redress in cases of unfair practice when the



Margaret Grainger

culprit is an insurance company and a member of the scheme. But OPAS is concerned that when personal pensions investment is widened to include banks and building societies, there may be no effective self-regulation.

But OPAS is adamant that it could not fulfil the role of Ombudsman. First, it is funded by donations and would find it hard to justify any sort of levy on member pension schemes. Whereas it is the insurance company shareholders who ultimately pay for the Insurance Ombudsman, OPAS says. It would be unfair to expect pension fund members to pay for the service.

And, secondly, they say that those schemes which cause the most problems would be unlikely to join any voluntary scheme.

Vivien Goldsmith

OPAS: Room 327, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London, WC2 6NN 01-405 6922 ext 205.

## The early leavers who retire to disappointment

Early leavers - those who switch jobs leaving a deferred or frozen occupational pension behind - often end up in retirement with a lower pension than they had hoped for.

This is because the deferred pension, in many cases, will be based on the employee's salary at the time of leaving the particular company's pension scheme, and is not increased to reflect inflation.

Companies are not consistent in the attitude that they take towards deferred pensions in their schemes. Some do have a policy of increasing the deferred pension annually, while others make no voluntary increases but merely increase the guaranteed minimum element (in the case of contracted-out schemes) until you retire.

This month's issue of *Money Magazine* shows, in a national survey of company pension schemes, which companies voluntarily top up deferred pensions, and which do not. Some well known names, such as British Home Stores, Marks & Spencer and General Accident, appear in the latter category.

Shortage of money is the reason put forward by British Home Stores for its stance. "We have other things that we consider more important at the moment," said a spokesman for the company.

BHS is slightly unusual in that about 85 per cent of its staff are women. The company, if it has a pension priority at the moment, wishes therefore to introduce widowers' pensions into its scheme.

General Accident is not very forthcoming about the stance it adopts. "In common with many others we do what the law

paid from January 1, 1985, will be revalued, and only those leaving jobs after January 1, 1986, come within the ambit of the new legislation.

It is worth bearing in mind, however, that a deferred pension is often only one of several options available to those who switch jobs. The Consumers' Association guide, *What Will My Pension Be?*, available in bookshops, provides a useful and up-to-date guide to the alternatives. Otherwise the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (Opas) will be able to advise.

Meanwhile, another situation highlighted by the *Money Magazine* survey was the number of companies with a surplus in their pension funds which take a contributions holiday.

Lucas and IT Group are two current examples, although in both cases it is the company taking the contribution holiday, not the employees; they are still making contributions at the pre-holiday rate.

"In the past the company has made up a deficit in the fund by making extra contributions," says IT's chairman, Ronnie Utiger. "If the company has had to bear the burden of an underfunding situation, why shouldn't it reap the benefits of overfunding?"

Lawrence Lever

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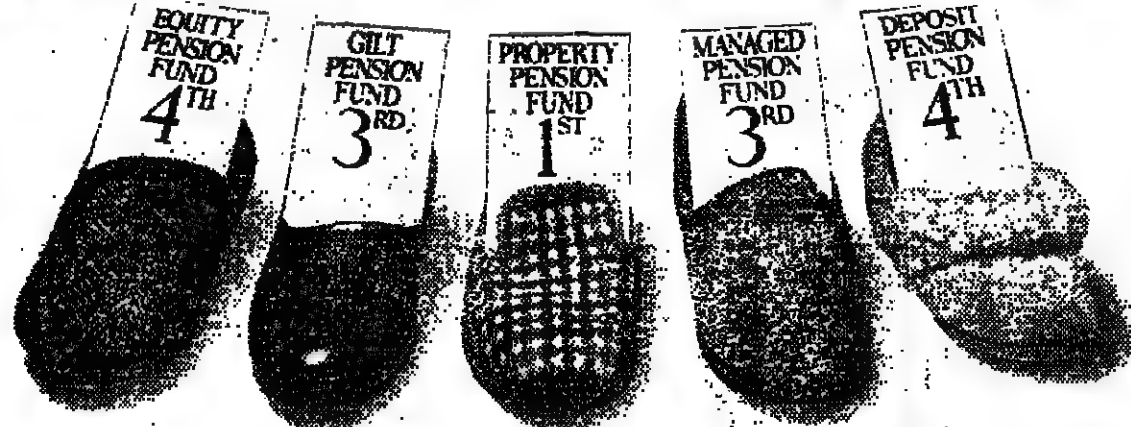
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